

# WELCOME

Georgetown

February 9, 2015

“Belton Boosts Boosters”

“Attractive Austin Appeals to All”

“Genial Georgetown Gladdens Guests”

“Temple Tempts Teeming Tourists”

*Meridian Road in Texas, 1916 Travel Guide*

HARDY·HECK·MOORE INC

Historic Preservation Planning & Management



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
*real places telling real stories*



# What is the Project?

## Project Background

- Sponsors



**TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
*real places telling real stories*



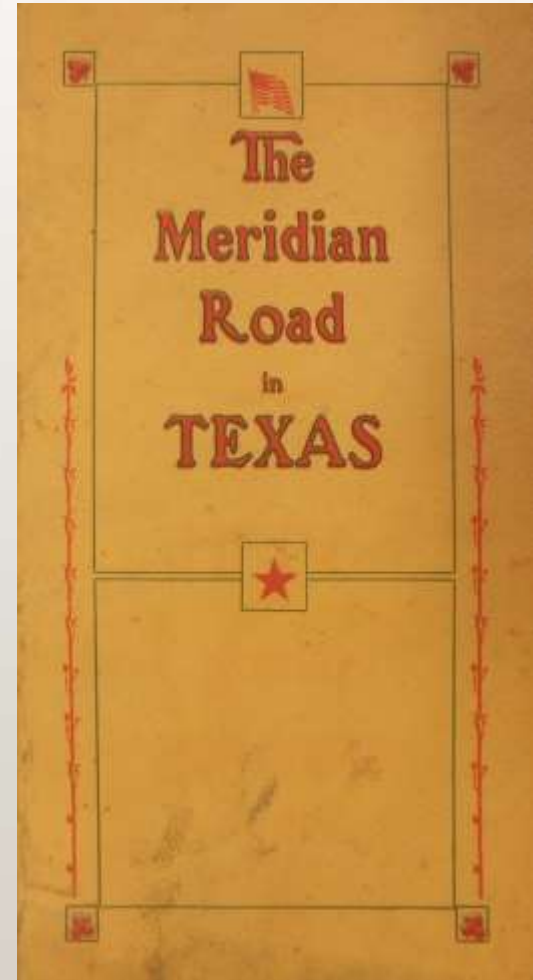
U.S. Department of Transportation  
**Federal Highway Administration**



# What is the Project?

## Project Goals

- Work Products
  - Report
  - Web-Based Content
  - Images
  - Research Materials



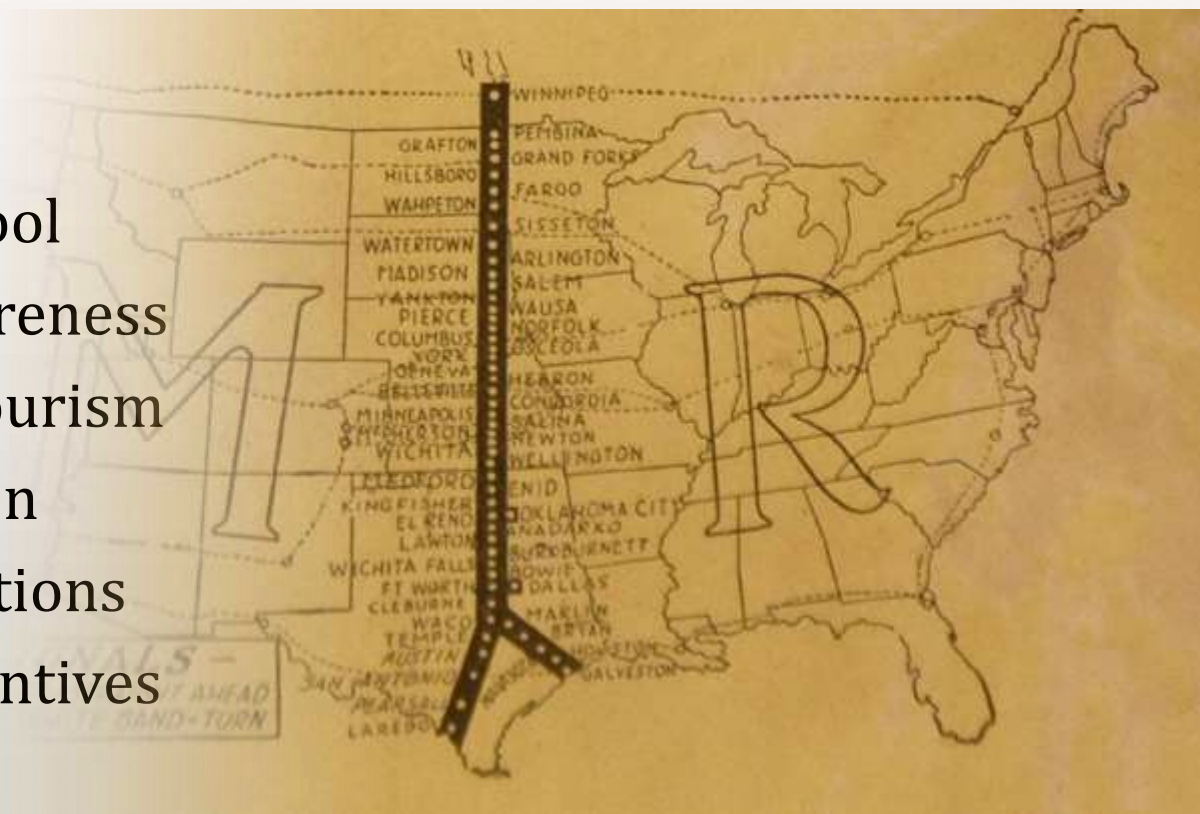
Source: CAH



# What is the Project?

## Project Goals

- Applications
  - Planning Tool
  - Public Awareness
  - Heritage Tourism
  - Preservation
    - Designations
    - Tax Incentives



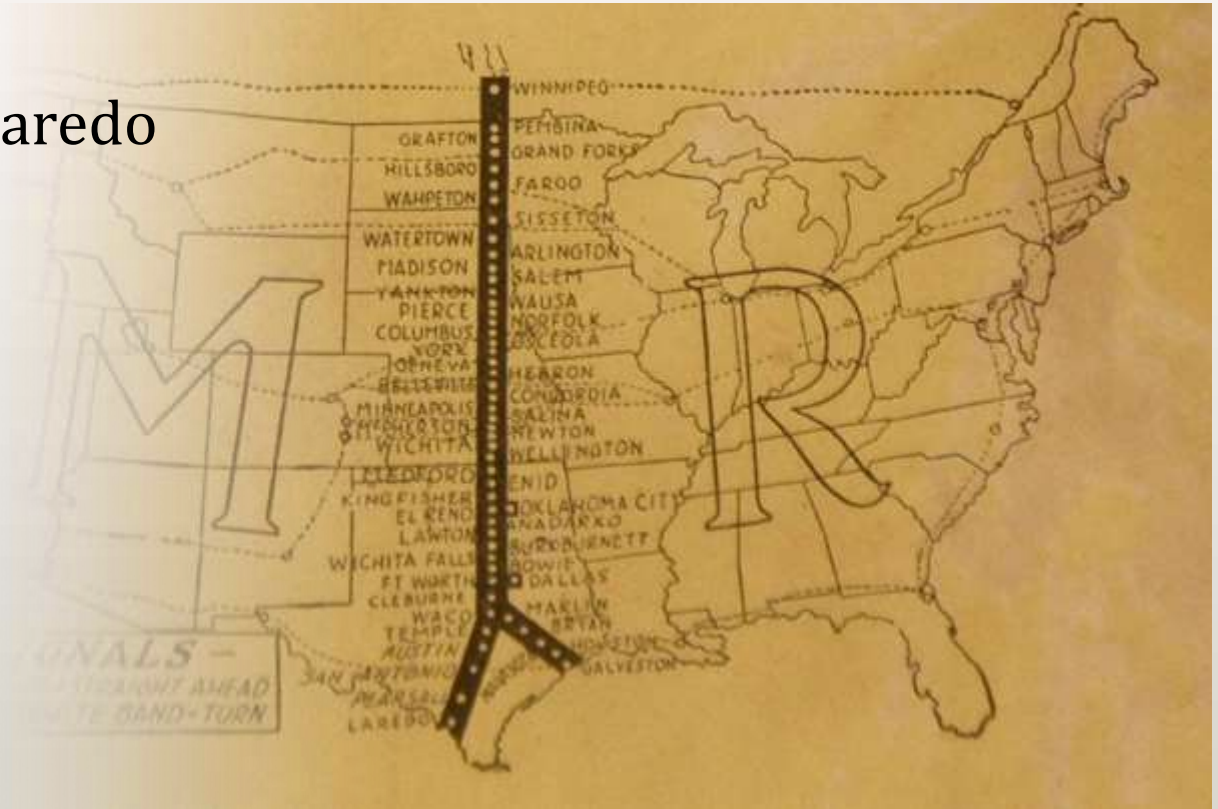
Source: CAH



# What is the Project?

## Project Path

- Oklahoma to Laredo and Galveston



Source: CAH

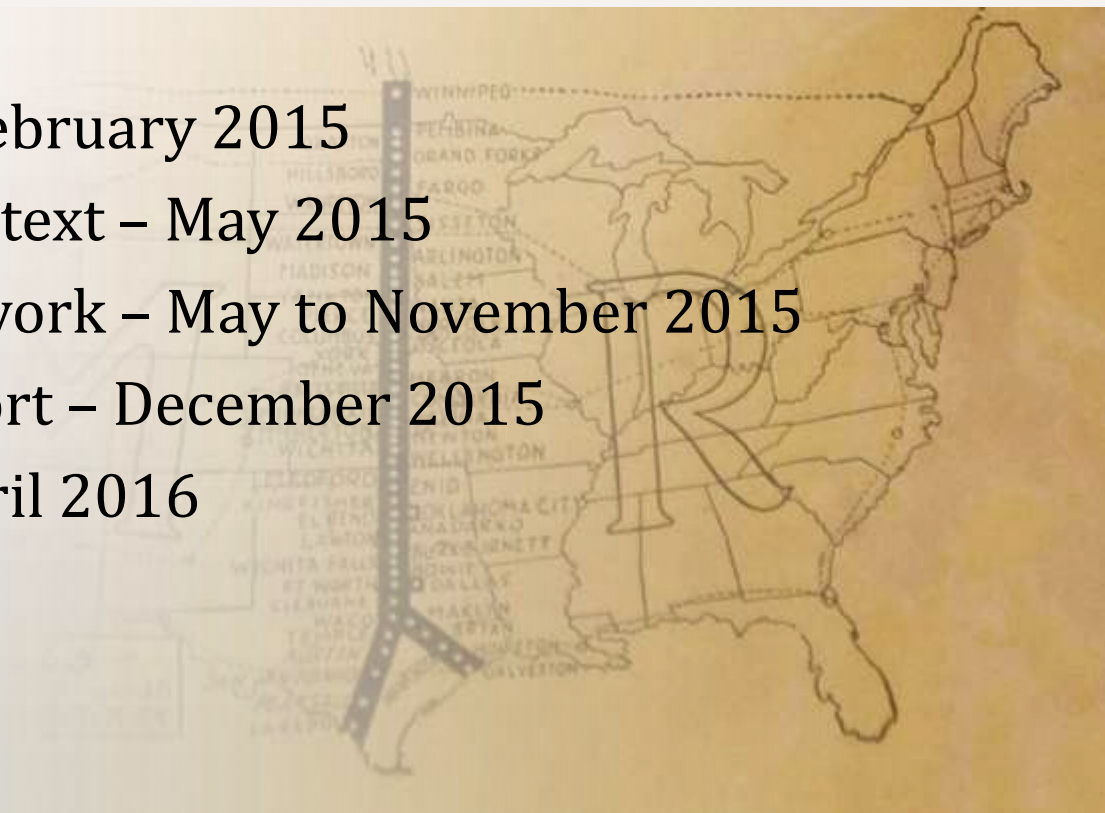




# What is the Project?

## Project Schedule

- Presentations – February 2015
- Draft Historic Context – May 2015
- Survey and Fieldwork – May to November 2015
- Draft Survey Report – December 2015
- Final Report – April 2016



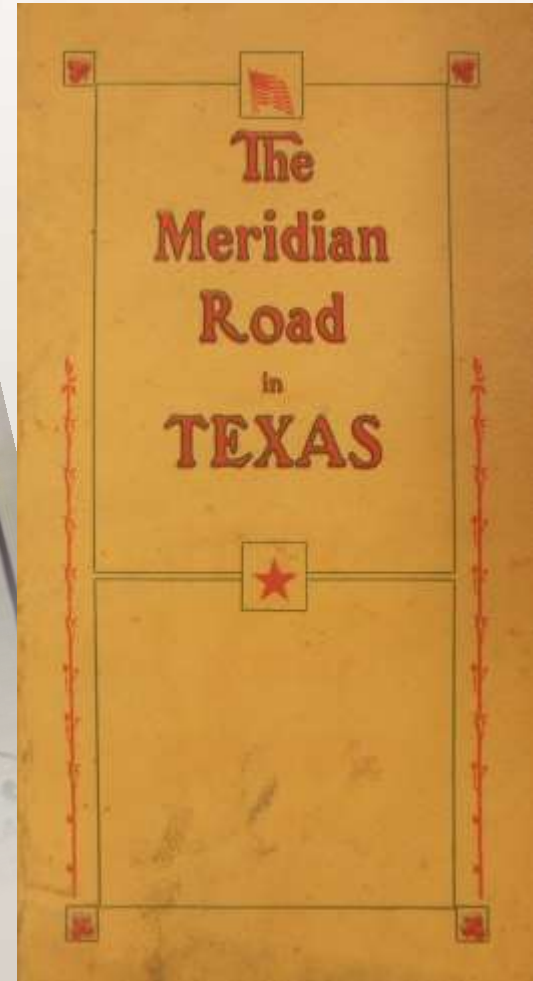
Source: CAH



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- Meridian Road (1911)



Sources: HCM&A and CAH



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- Meridian Highway / International Meridian Highway (1913)



Source: StMU



Source: CAH

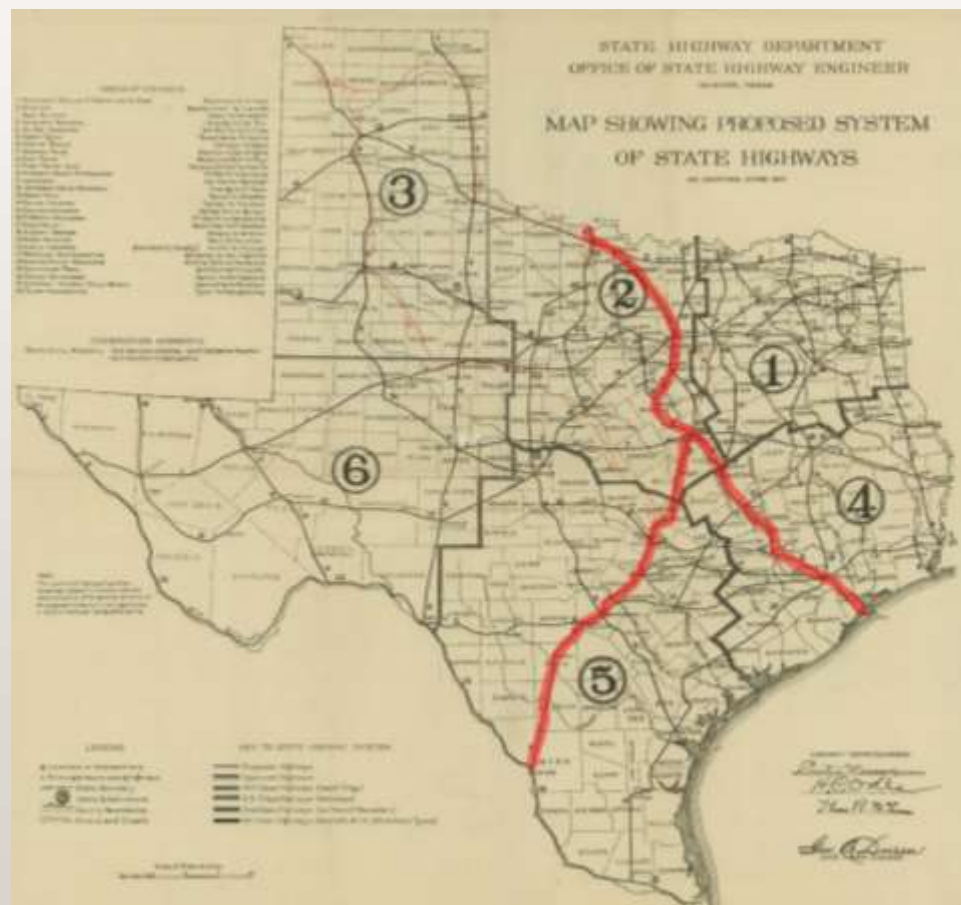




# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- State Highway No. 2 (1917)



Source: TSLAC



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- US 81 (1926)
- Ringgold to Laredo



Source: TSLAC



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- SH6 (1926)
- Waco to Galveston



Source: TSLAC



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

- SH 6 (Waco to Hempstead [Houston])
- US 277 (Red River to Wichita Falls)
- US 287 (Wichita Falls to Bowie)
- SH 95 (Temple to Elgin)
- US 290 (Hempstead to Houston)
- US 75 (Houston to Galveston)







# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Names Over the Years

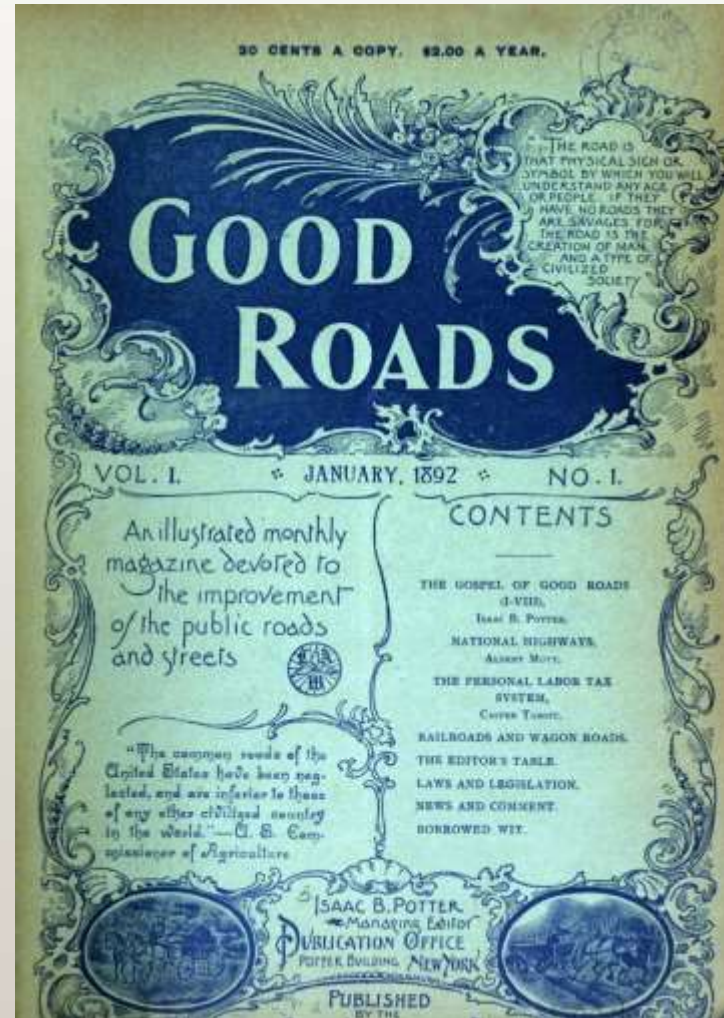
- IH 44 (Red River to Wichita Falls)
- IH 35W (Fort Worth to Hillsboro)
- IH 35 (Hillsboro to Laredo)
- IH 45 (Houston to Galveston)





# Historical Influences

## Good Roads Movement



Source: Google Books



# Historical Influences

## Good Roads Movement

- Bicycling



Source: PTH



# Historical Influences

## Good Roads Movement

- Road Conditions



Source: PTH





# Historical Influences

## Good Roads Movement

- Muddy Roads



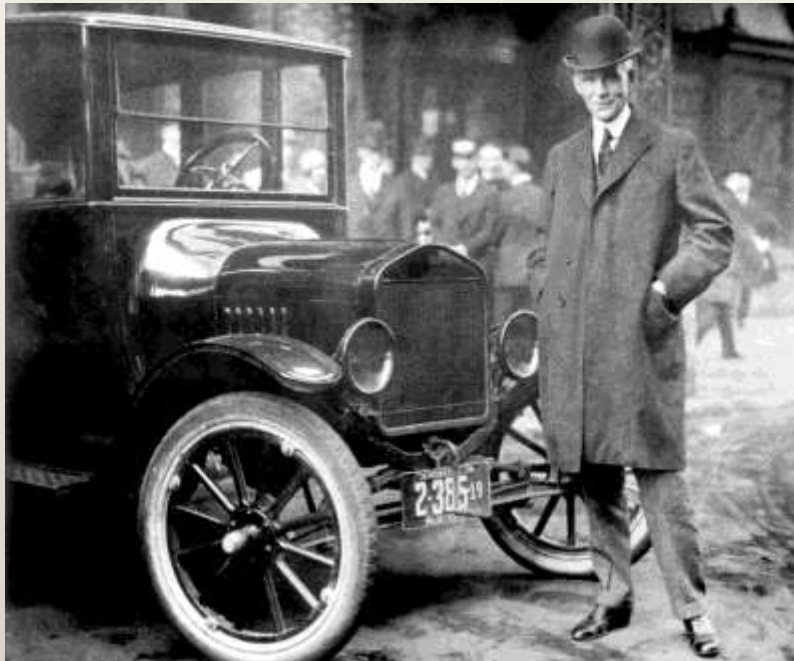
Source: TxDOT



# Historical Influences

## Rising Popularity of Automobile

- Introduction of Model T (1908)



Source: THF



Source: THF



# Historical Influences

## New Freedom and Opportunities

- The “Vagabonds”



Source: THF



Source: THF



# Historical Influences

## New Freedom and Opportunities

- Tourism for a Growing Middle Class



Source: TOT



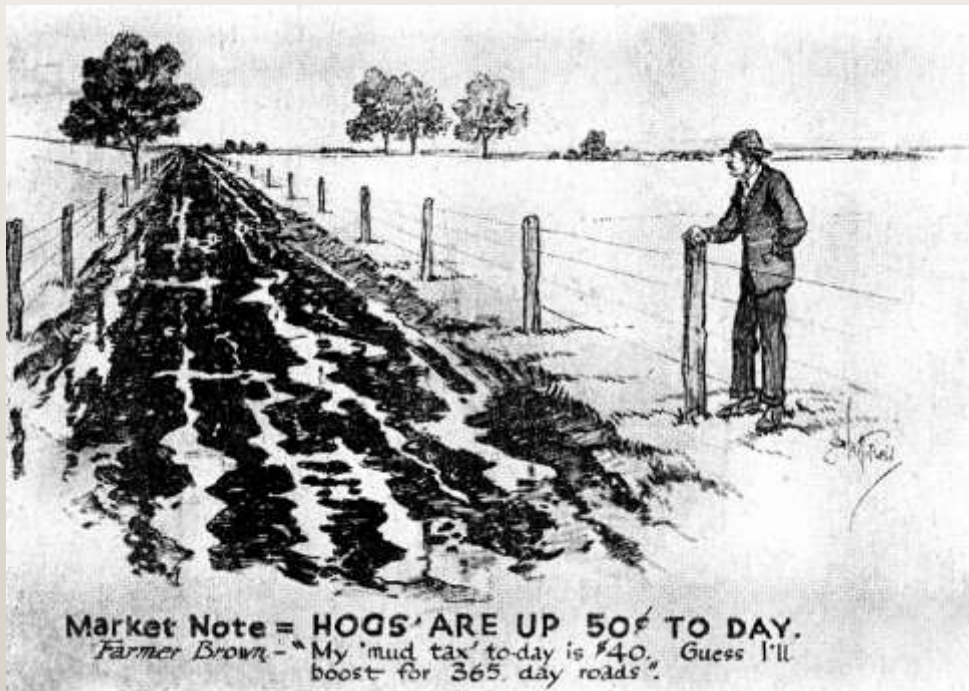
Source: TWC



# Historical Influences

## New Freedom and Opportunities

- Commerce and Trade



Source: KHS



Source: THF

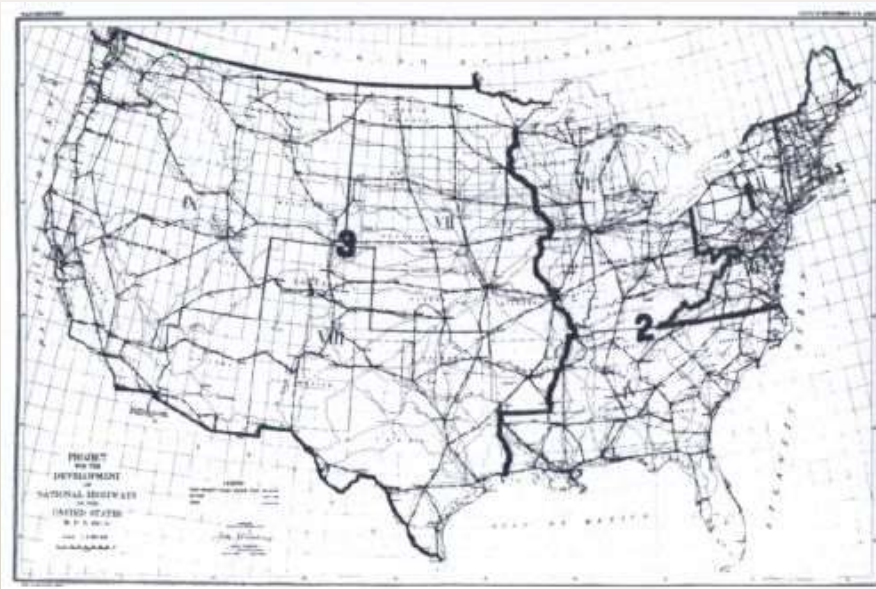


Source: PTH



# Historical Influences

## Military Significance



Source: FHWA



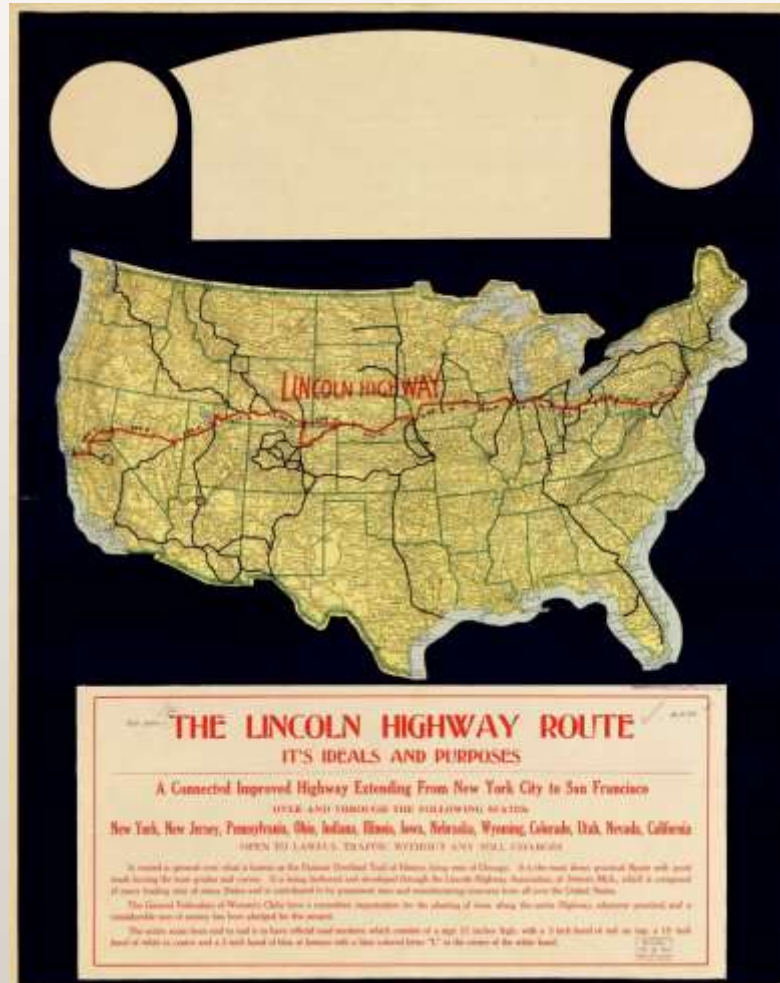
Source: PTH



# Historical Influences

## Other National Routes

- Lincoln Highway



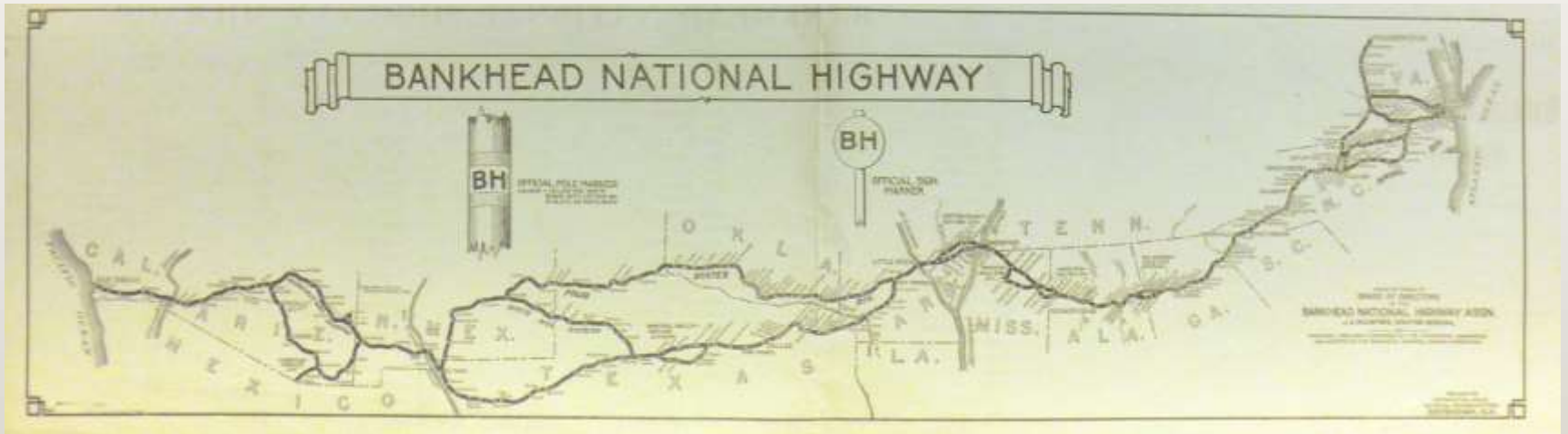
Source: LHNMA&A



# Historical Influences

## Other National Routes

- Bankhead Highway



Source: BiPL

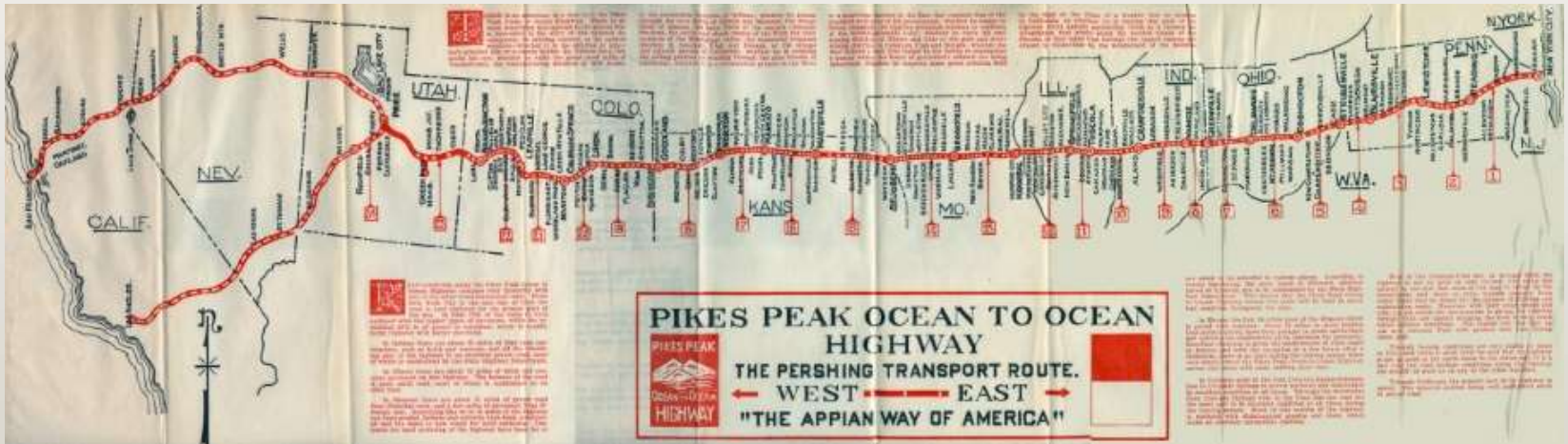




# Historical Influences

## Other National Routes

- Pikes Peak Ocean to Ocean Highway



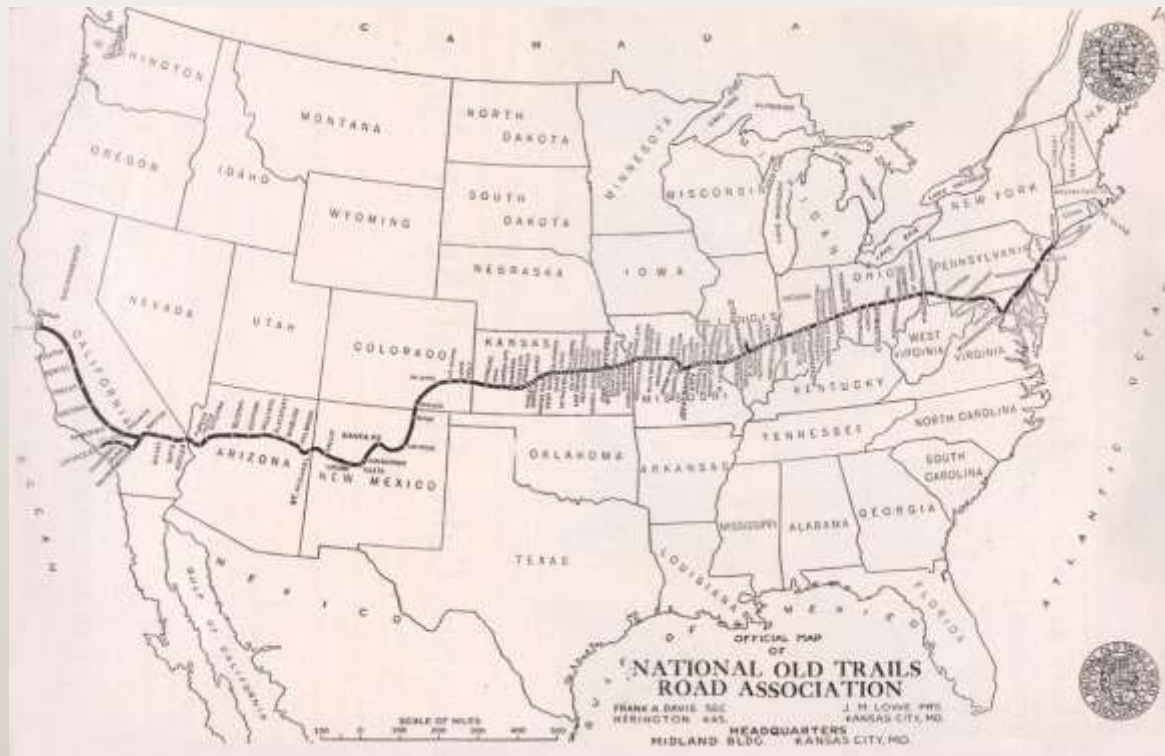
Source: PP00



# Historical Influences

## Other National Routes

- National Old Trails



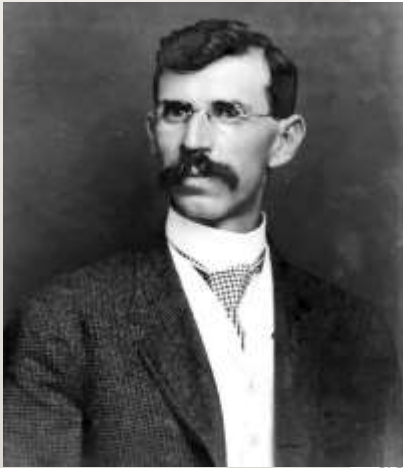
Source: FHWA



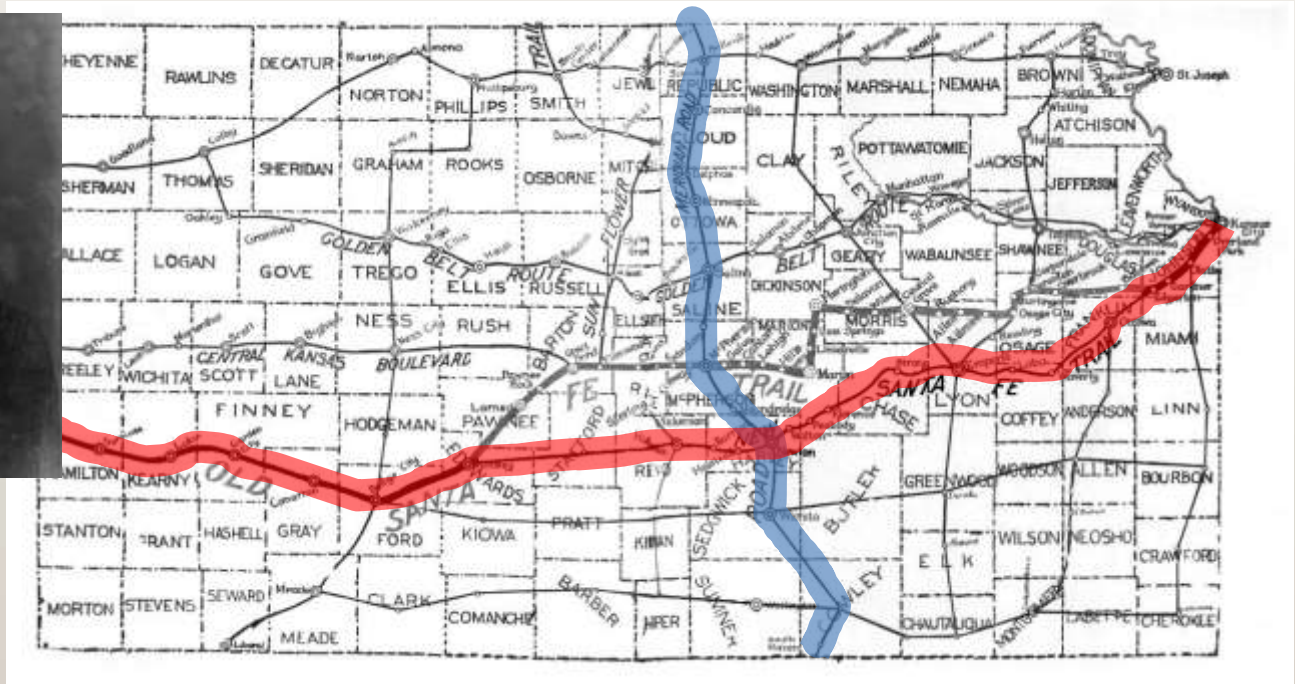
# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Organization and Early Years

- Founded 1911
- John C. Nicholson of Newton, Kansas



Source: KSH



Source: KSH





# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Established Routes

- Chisholm Trail
- Santa Fe Trail



Source: UNO





# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Established Routes

- Railroad Network
  - MKT
  - IGN
  - H&TC
  - FW&DC



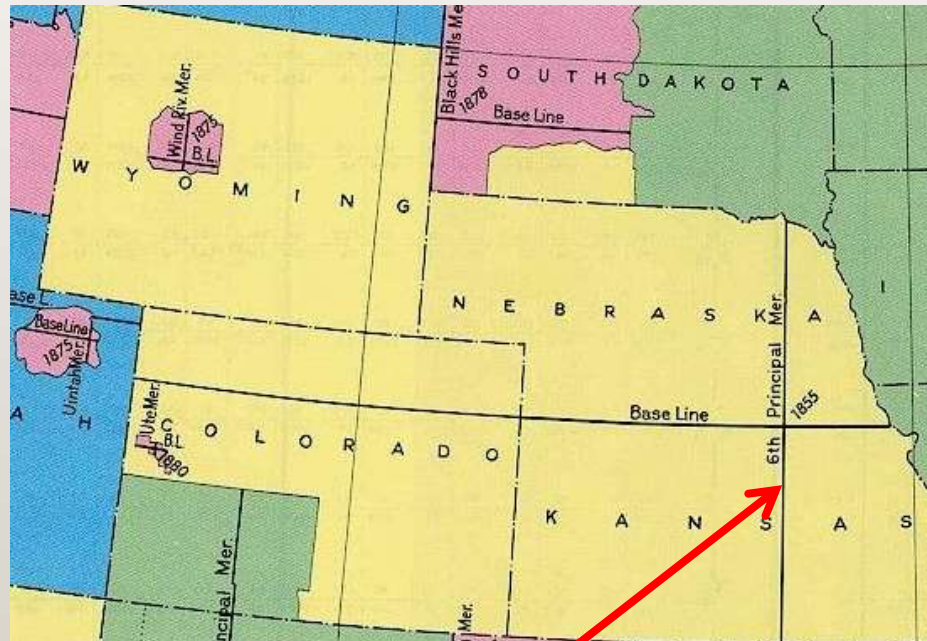
Source: LOC



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## Origin of the Name

- Named for Sixth Principal Meridian



Source: BLM

### Sixth Principal Meridian

Adopted 1855. Governing Surveys - Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming. Initial Point - Latitude 40-00-07, Longitude 97-22-08



# What is the Meridian Highway?

## The Meridian Highway in Texas

- David E. Colp
  - Texas Division of Meridian Highway
  - Texas Good Roads Association
  - Texas Highway Commission
  - Old Spanish Trail
  - Glacier to Gulf Highway
  - State Parks Board



Source: CAH

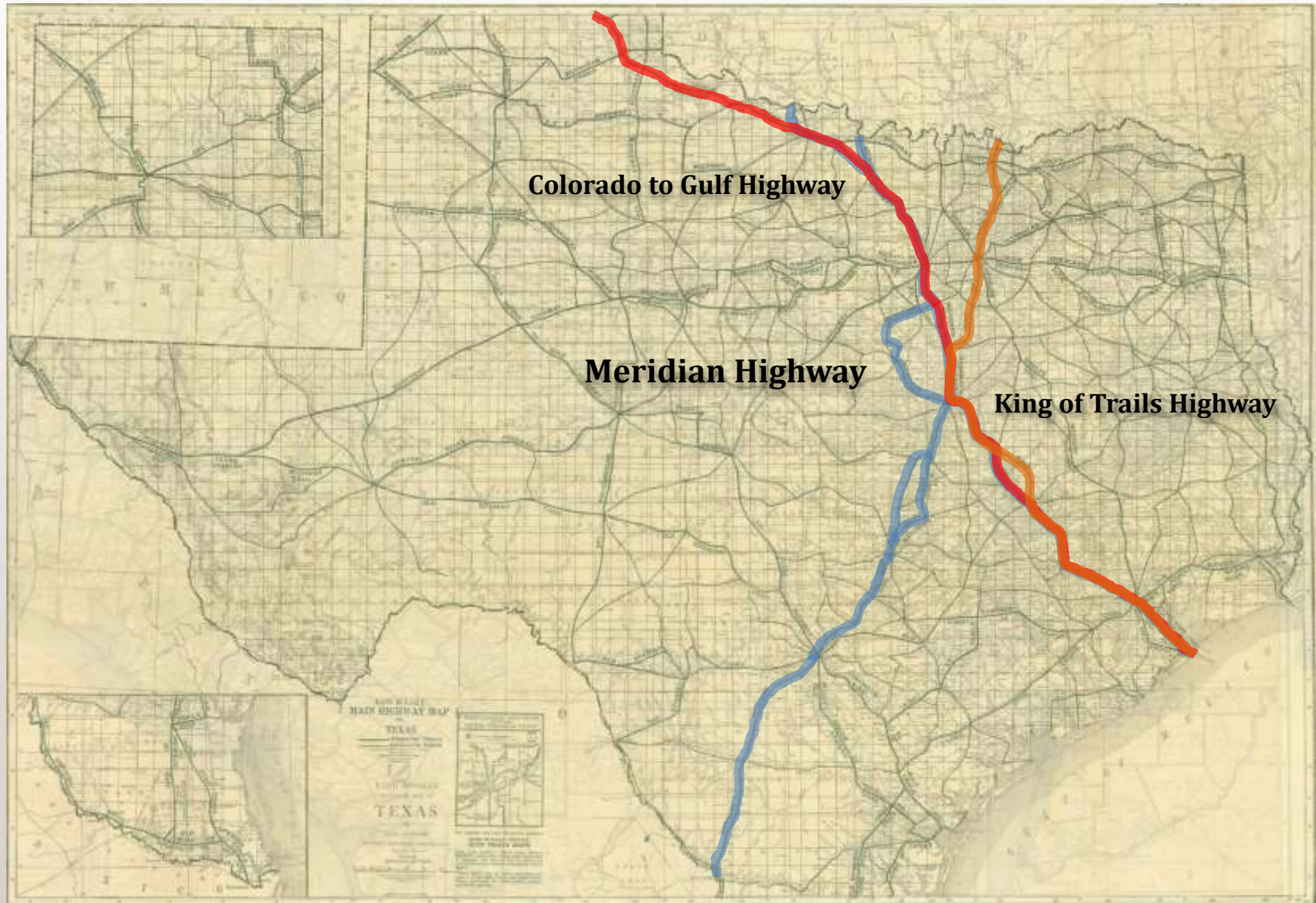






# MERIDIAN HIGHWAY

U.S. 81 THROUGHOUT





# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters

- Path Finders and Caravans



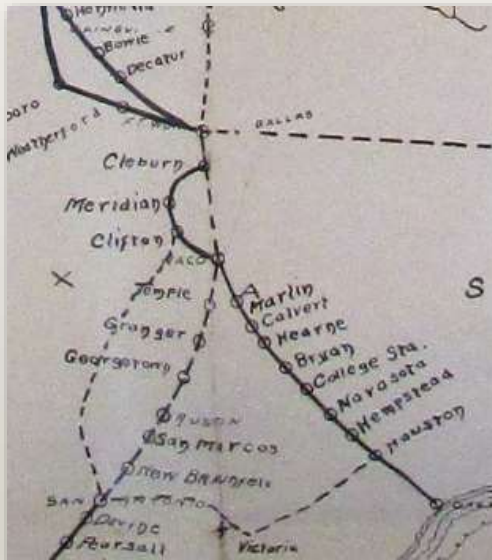
Source: HCM&A



# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters

- Banners



<b>HEMPSTEAD, TEXAS</b>		
1804 miles.	Population, 2,000.	L. D. Ameler, Committeeman.
a—A. C. T. Hotel.	a—W. J. Edwards & Co.	
<b>HOUSTON, TEXAS</b>		
1856 miles.	Population, 75,000.	G. W. Hawkins, Committeeman.
a—Bender Hotel, Main and Walker.	a—Hawkins-Hall Gar., Main & Dallas.	
<b>GALVESTON, TEXAS</b>		
1908 miles.	Population, 35,981.	C. H. McMaisters, Committeeman.
a—Hotel Galves.	b—Tremont Hotel.	a—Galves Garage. b—Gray's Gar.
<b>WACO TO LAREDO</b>		
<b>WACO, TEXAS</b>		
1635 miles.	Population, 26,425.	W. W. Selby, Committeeman.
a—New State House Hotel.	J. C. Kilgore & Co.	Austin Ave. Garage.
<b>TEMPLE, TEXAS</b>		
1688 miles.	Population, 10,593.	
<b>GEORGETOWN, TEXAS</b>		
1740 miles.	Population, 2,090.	
<b>AUSTIN, TEXAS</b>		
1768 miles.	Population, 29,860.	H. M. Thomson, Jr., Committeeman.
a—Drescoll Hotel.	a—Anderson & Benson Garage.	
<b>LYTLE, TEXAS</b>		
1873 miles.	Population, 100.	
<b>PEARSBALL, TEXAS</b>		
1903 miles.	Population, 1,793.	
<b>DILLEY, TEXAS</b>		
1919 miles.	Population—	
<b>COTULLA, TEXAS</b>		
1935 miles.	Population, 1,880.	
<b>ARTESIA, TEXAS</b>		
1949 miles.	Population, 100.	
<b>LAREDO, TEXAS</b>		
2002 miles.	Population, 14,500.	



Source: HCM&A





# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters

- Banners



Source: HCM&A





# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters

- Meridian Road Magazine



MERIDIAN ROAD OFFICIAL GARAGES	
Winnipeg	City
Pembina	C. O. J.
Grand Forks	Sims
Hillsboro	Duke
Fargo	Wm. G. B.
Walpole	Walpole
Sioux Falls	Cotton
White Rock	The B.
Watertown	Wol
	Han
Arlington	Arlington
Madison	Merid
Salem	Johnson
Bridgewater	Boyer
Yankton	L. L.
Wausau	Sam I.
Pierre	Idol
Norfolk	E. G.
Madison	Schul
Platte Center	Platte
Columbus	John
Oswego	Oswego
Strassburg	Strass
York	York
Fairmont	Brown
Geneva	Merid
Belleville	Merid
Concordia	Concord
Minneapolis	Gage
Sulina	Ulla
Lindsborg	Lind
McPherson	Klin
Maand Ridge	C. O. J.
Newton	Mar
	Ken
Wichita	Zane
	Wol
Wellington	Rae
Caldwell	Felt
	Boyer

MERIDIAN ROAD OFFICIAL HOTELS	
Winnipeg	The Queens Hotel
Pembina	McLaren Hotel
Grand Forks	Hotel Pembina
Hillsboro	Hotel Durstah
Fargo	Friedrich Hotel
Walpole	Western Hotel
Sioux Falls	Gardner Hotel
White Rock	Hotel Annex
Watertown	City Hotel
Madison	Merchants Hotel
Salem	La Grande Hotel
Bridgewater	Commercial Hotel
Yankton	The Kampeska Hotel
Wausau	Lincoln Hotel
Pierre	Lake Park Hotel
Norfolk	Lewis Hotel
Madison	Hotel Dewey
Platte Center	Portland Hotel
Columbus	Midway Hotel
Oswego	Pierce Hotel
Strassburg	Pacific Hotel
York	Prince Hotel
Fairmont	Clother Hotel
Geneva	The Fenos Hotel
Belleville	Park Hotel
Concordia	Le Grande Hotel
Minneapolis	Chardon Hotel
	Jameson Hotel
	Central Hotel
	Hotel Hopulie
	Yankton Inn
	Parsons House
	Parke House
	New Clayton Hotel
	National Hotel
	Brunswick Hotel
	New Merchants Hotel
	St. Clair Hotel
	Fred Harvey Hotel
	Murphy Hotel
	Antlers Hotel
	Harvey Eating House
	Dad's Cafe
	Commercial Hotel
	Tom Hotel
	Oxford Hotel
	American Hotel

Kingfisher	Rockaday Hotel
El Reno	Southern Hotel
	Andrine Hotel
Wichita	Hamilton Hotel
Malvern	Fulton Hotel
Winfield	New Union Hotel
Groesville	Boston Hotel
Arkansas City	Laonia Hotel
Newkirk	Fifth Ave. Hotel
Okemah	Kentucky Home Hotel
Perky	Archie Hotel
	St. Louis Hotel
Guthrie	Time Hotel
	Royal Hotel
Okemah City	Law-Buckins Hotel
El Reno	Southern Hotel
Chickasha	The Early Hotel
Adair	Bryan Hotel
Adair	Royal Hotel
Apache	Blackwell Hotel
Lawton	Midland Hotel
Wichita Falls	St. James Hotel
	Westland Hotel
Fl. Worth	Jackalero Hotel
	Westbrook Hotel
Henrietta	Nottingham Hotel
Bowling	St. Elmo Hotel
Denton	Barrs House
Dallas	International Hotel
Chabasco	Adolphus & Scotland
	New Hotel Raymond
	Hotel Chabasco
Glenn	Campbell Hotel
Meridian	Emerson Hotel
Clifton	Nelson House
Waco	New State House
Martin	Majestic Hotel
Boerne	The Oriental Hotel
Dryden	Hotel Dryden
Savannah	Camp Hotel
Hempstead	A. C. T. Hotel
Houston	Bender Hotel
Galveston	Hotel Galveston
Austin	Freemont Hotel
	Dressed Hotel

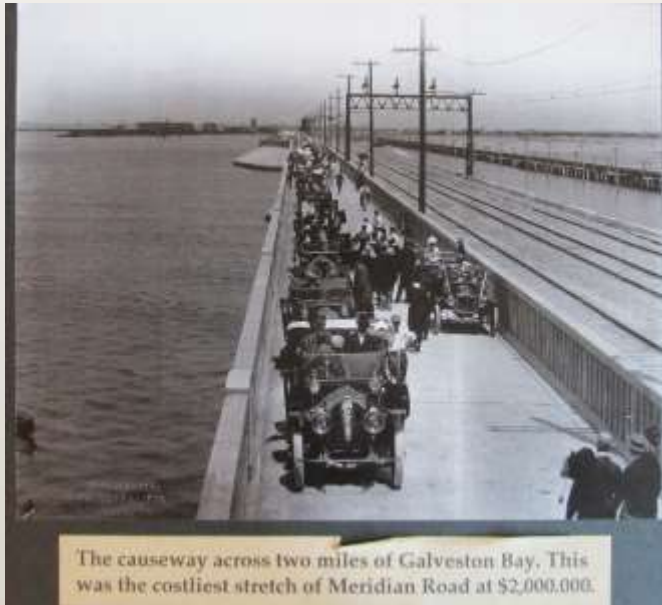
Source: HCM&A



# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters

- Caravans and Tours



Source: HCM&A



Source: HCM&A



# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters



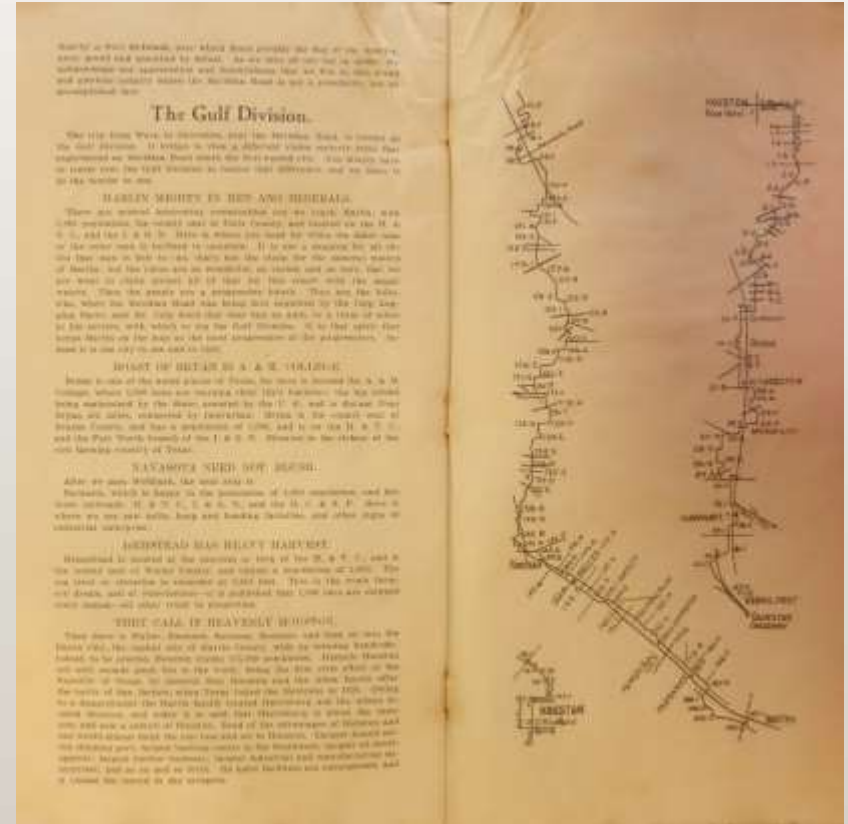
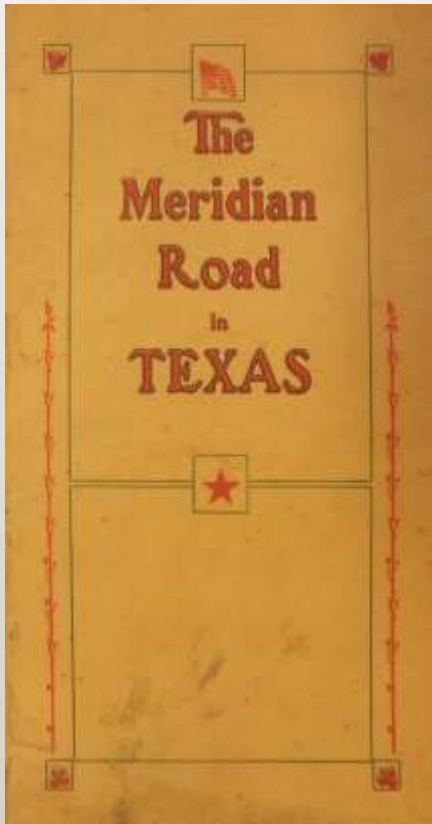
Source: HCM&A



# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Promotions and Promoters

- The Meridian Road In Texas (1916)

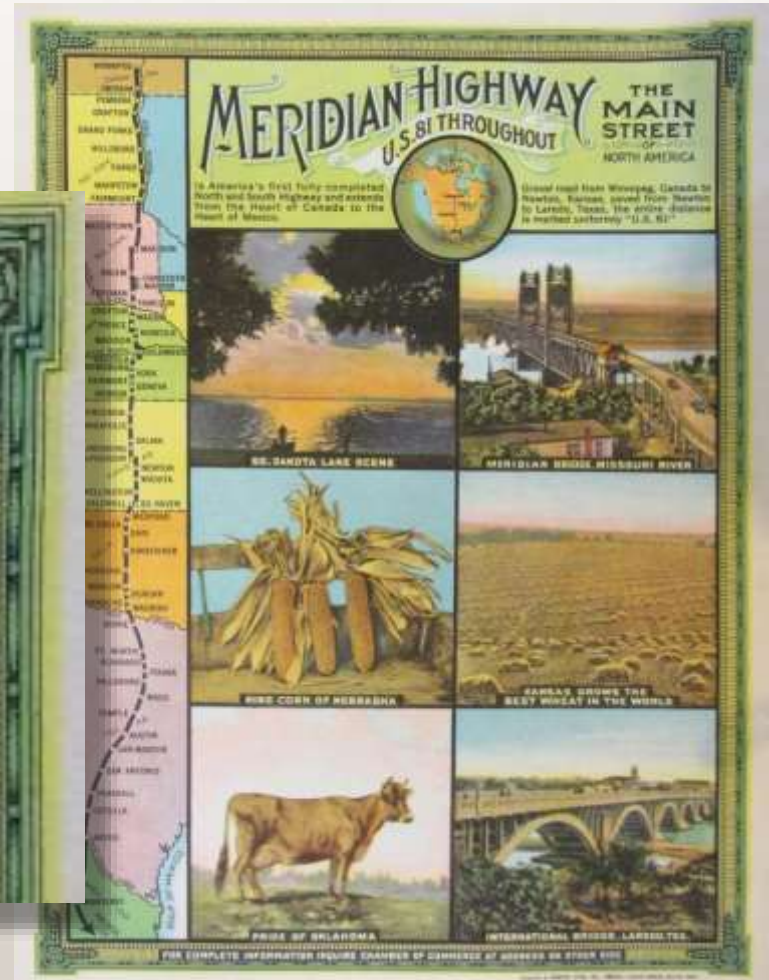






# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Brochures and Pamphlets



Source: HCM&A



# How the Meridian Highway was Promoted

## Brochures and Pamphlets



Newton, Kansas.

"If each country will build one north and south road across its domain—and no country can afford to do less—and enter them at a common point at international boundary line what is now a dream will be a fact. Thousands of miles of the proposed road south of the Rio Grande is now being used by half a million automobiles."—John C. Nicholson, President of International Meridian Highway Association, Newton, Kansas.

**Puerto Deseado**

**CAPE HORN**

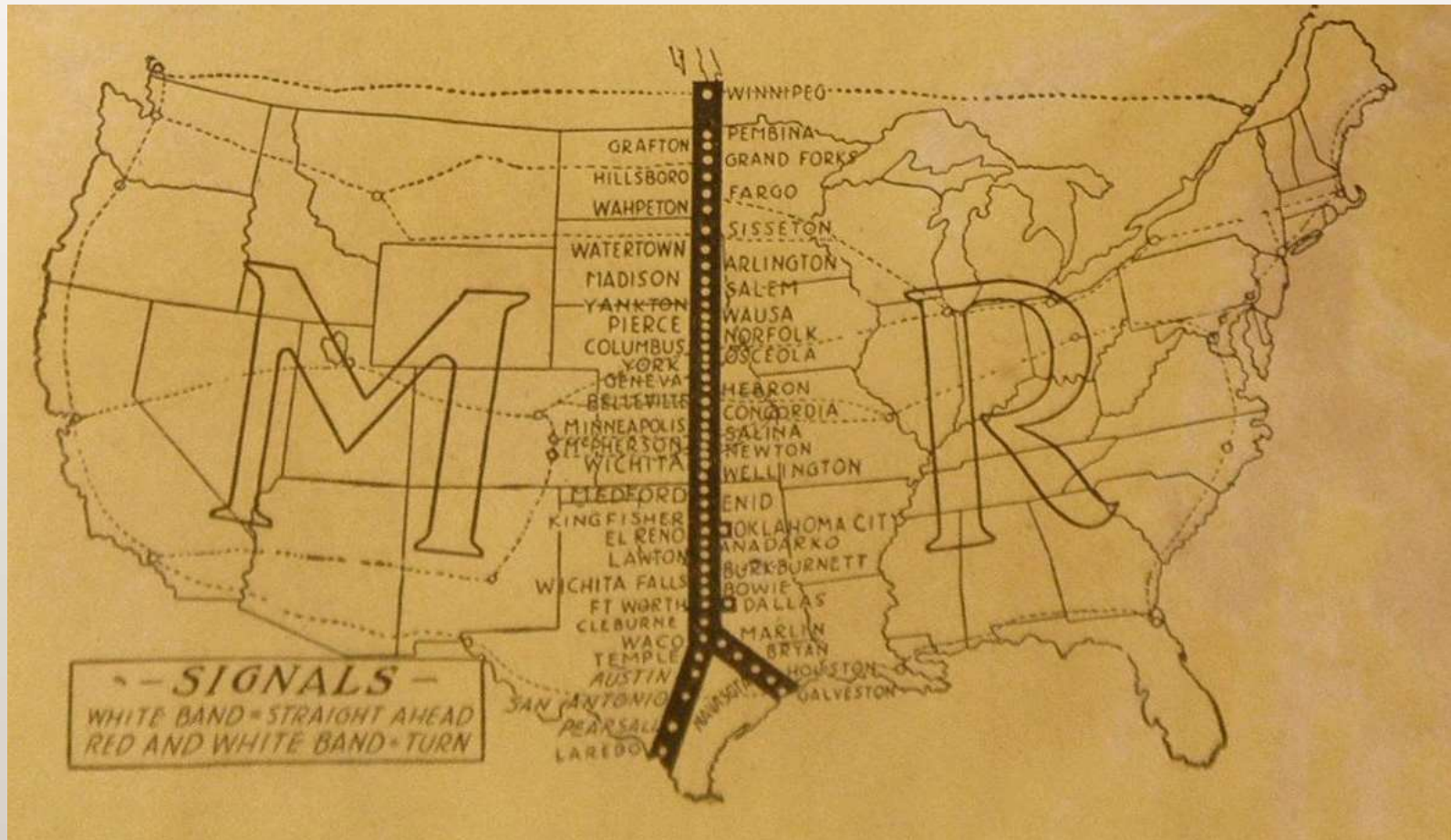
Managua to Panama Canal	1400
Panama Canal to Guayaquil	1500
Guayaquil to Lima	1300
Lima to Antofagasta	1750
Antofagasta to Valparaiso	2150
Valparaiso to Buenos Aires	2000
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,700</b>

**PAN-AMERICAN HIGHWAY—MERIDIAN—U. S. 81**



# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## The Meridian Road as an Idea

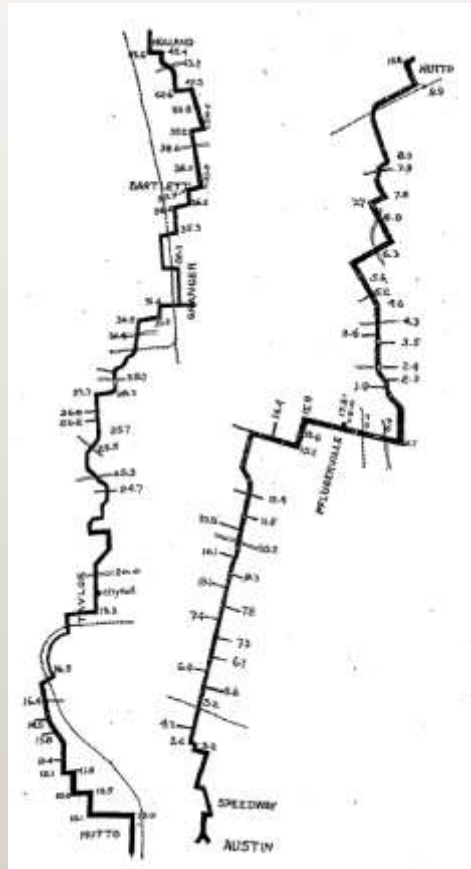




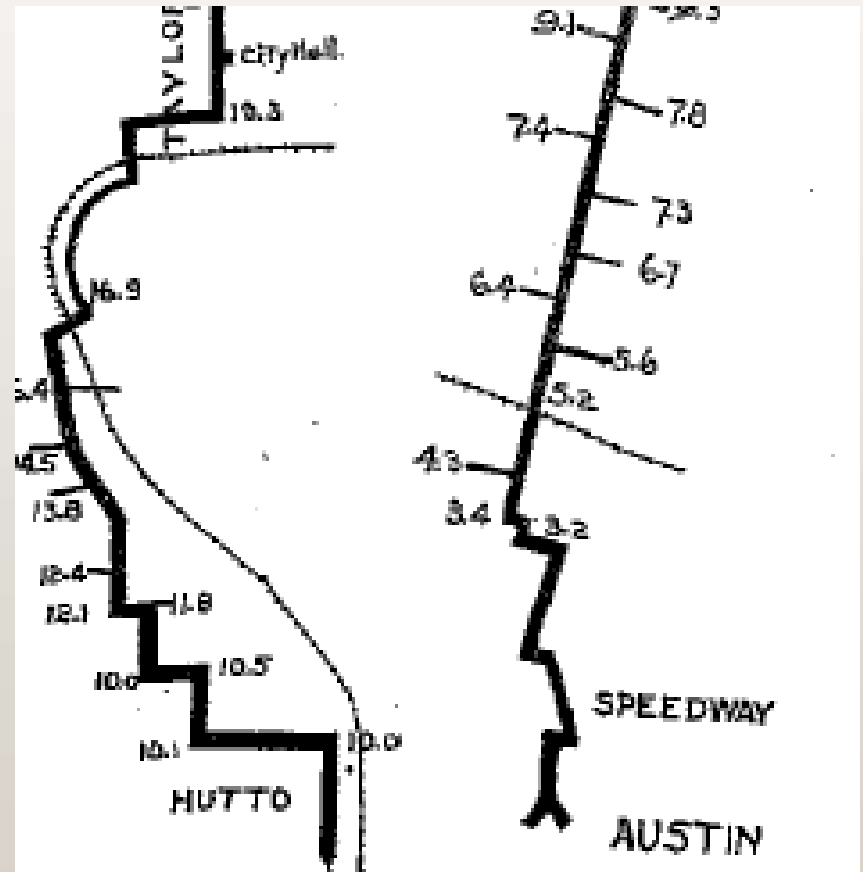


# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## Early Maps



Source: CAH



Source: CAH





# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## Texas Highway Commission Maps



Source: TSLAC



# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## Federal Highway Maps



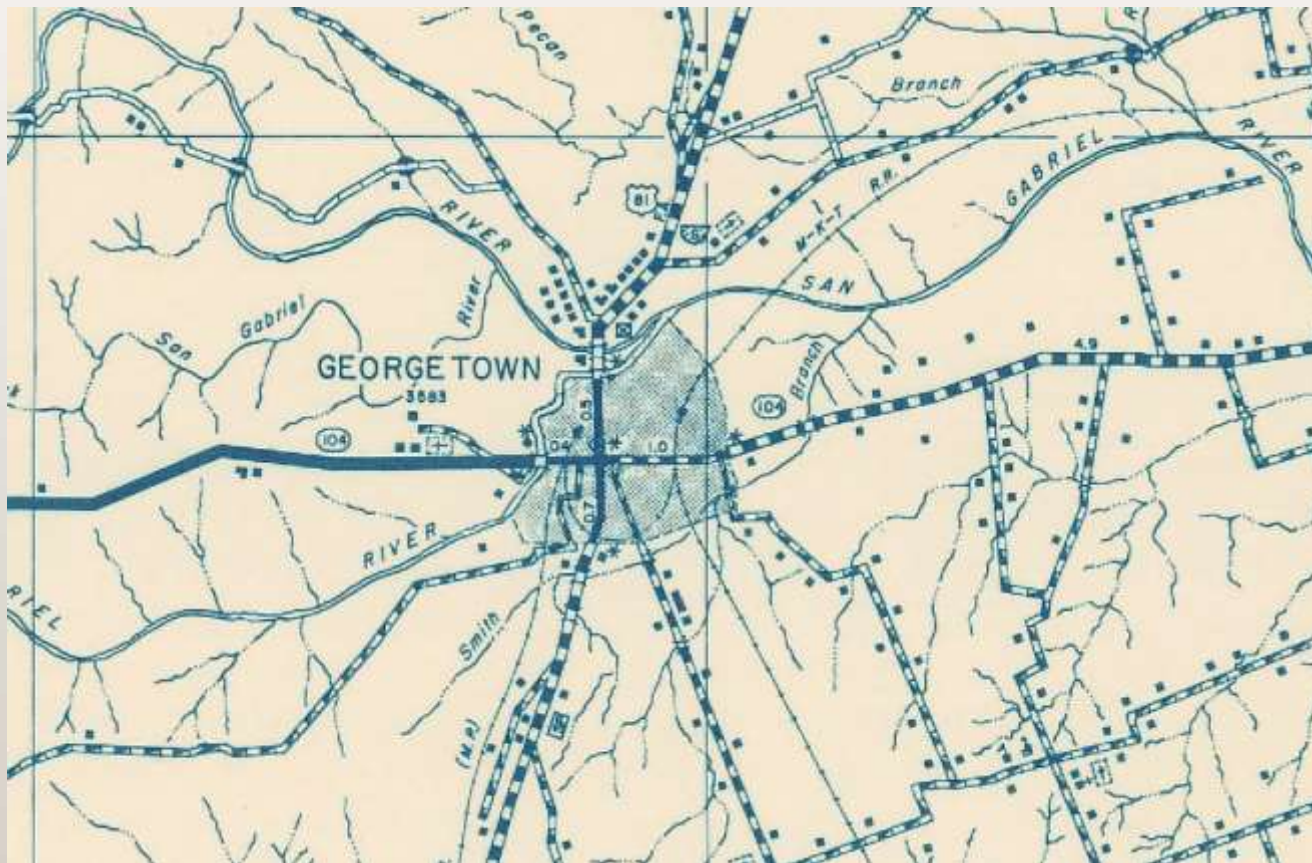
Source: TSLAC





# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## Texas Highway Department – County Highway Maps



Source: TSLAC



# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## Texas Highway Department – County Highway Maps







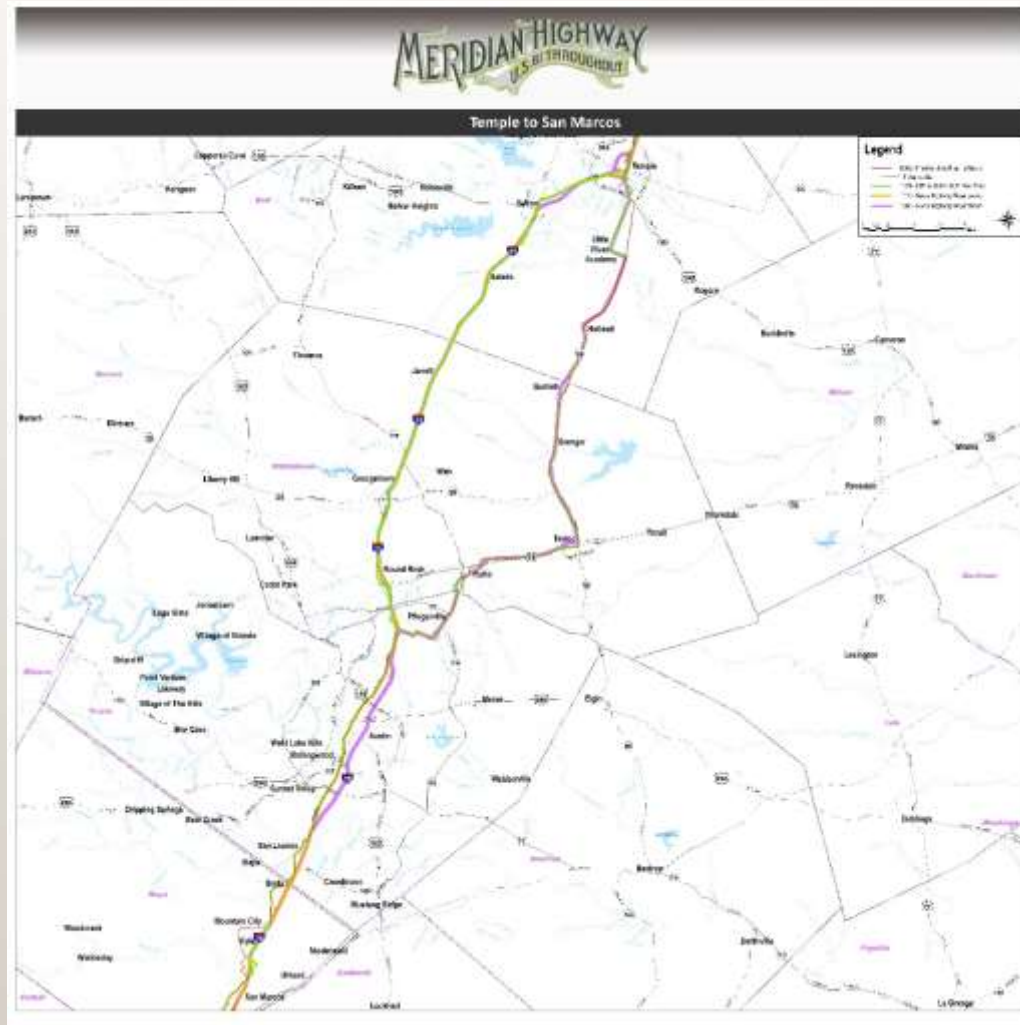
# Plotting the Meridian Highway Route

## Composite Map Showing Alignments Over Time





# The Meridian Highway in the Area





# The Meridian Highway in the Area



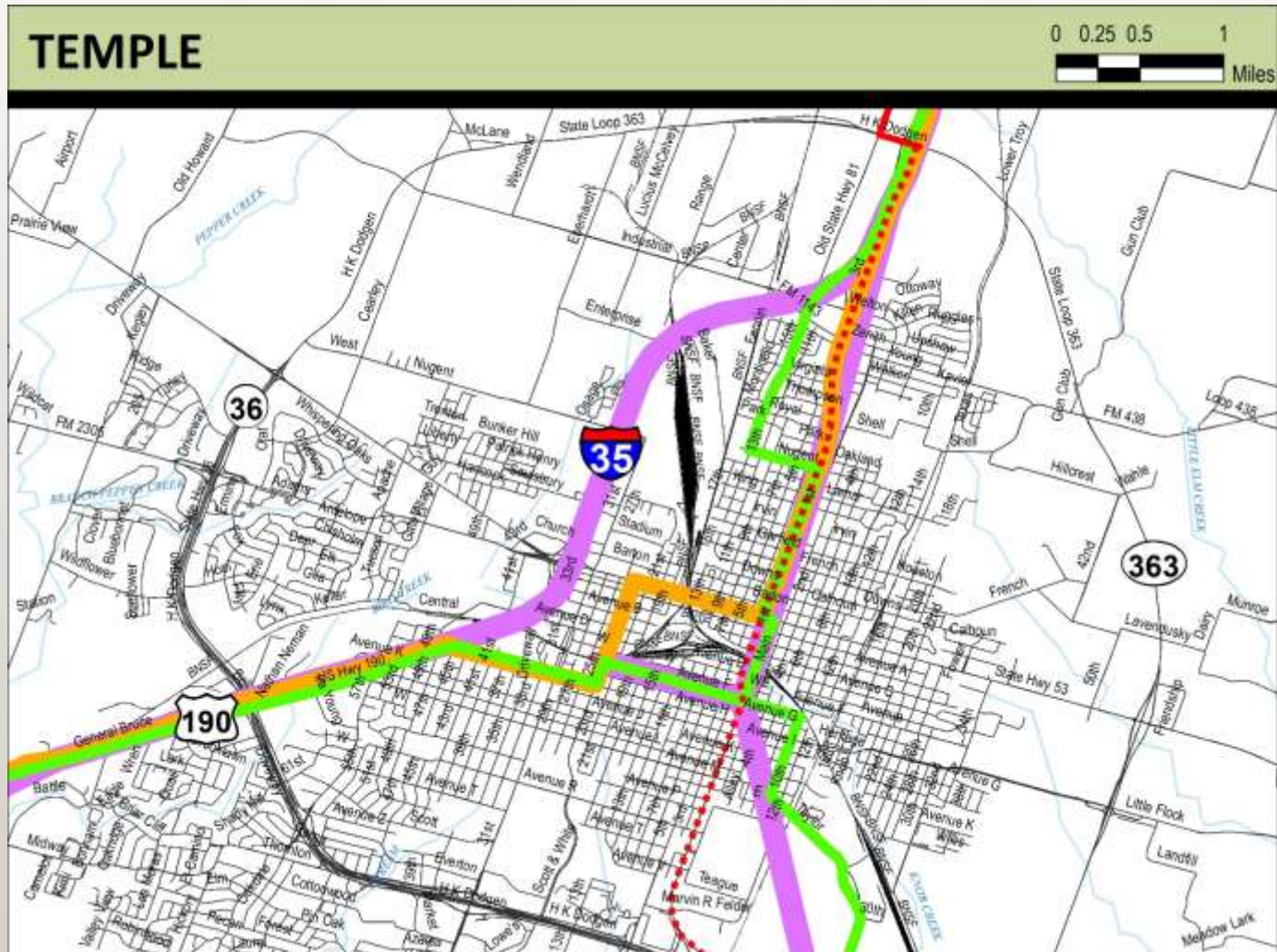


# The Meridian Highway in the Area



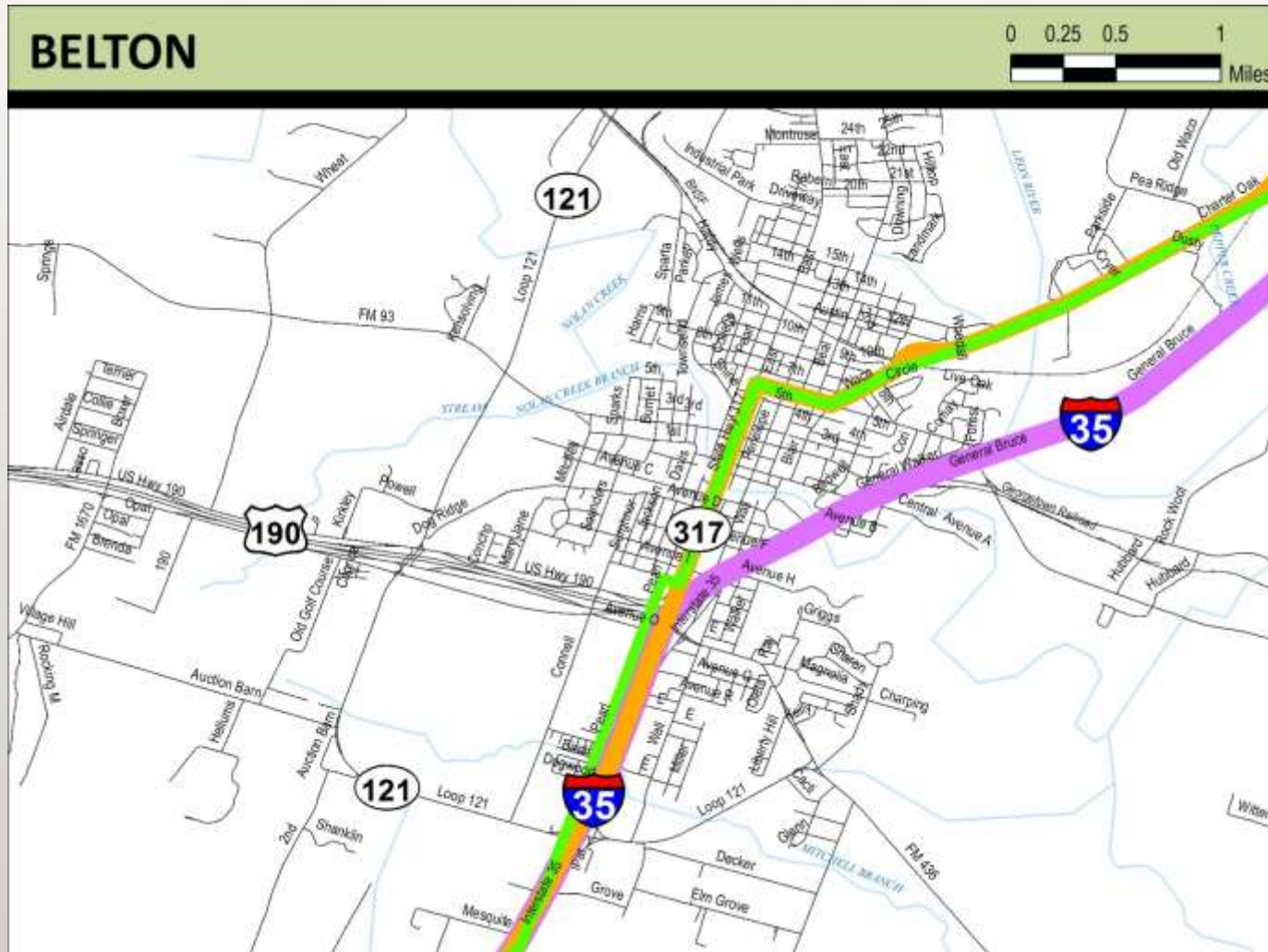


# The Meridian Highway in the Area



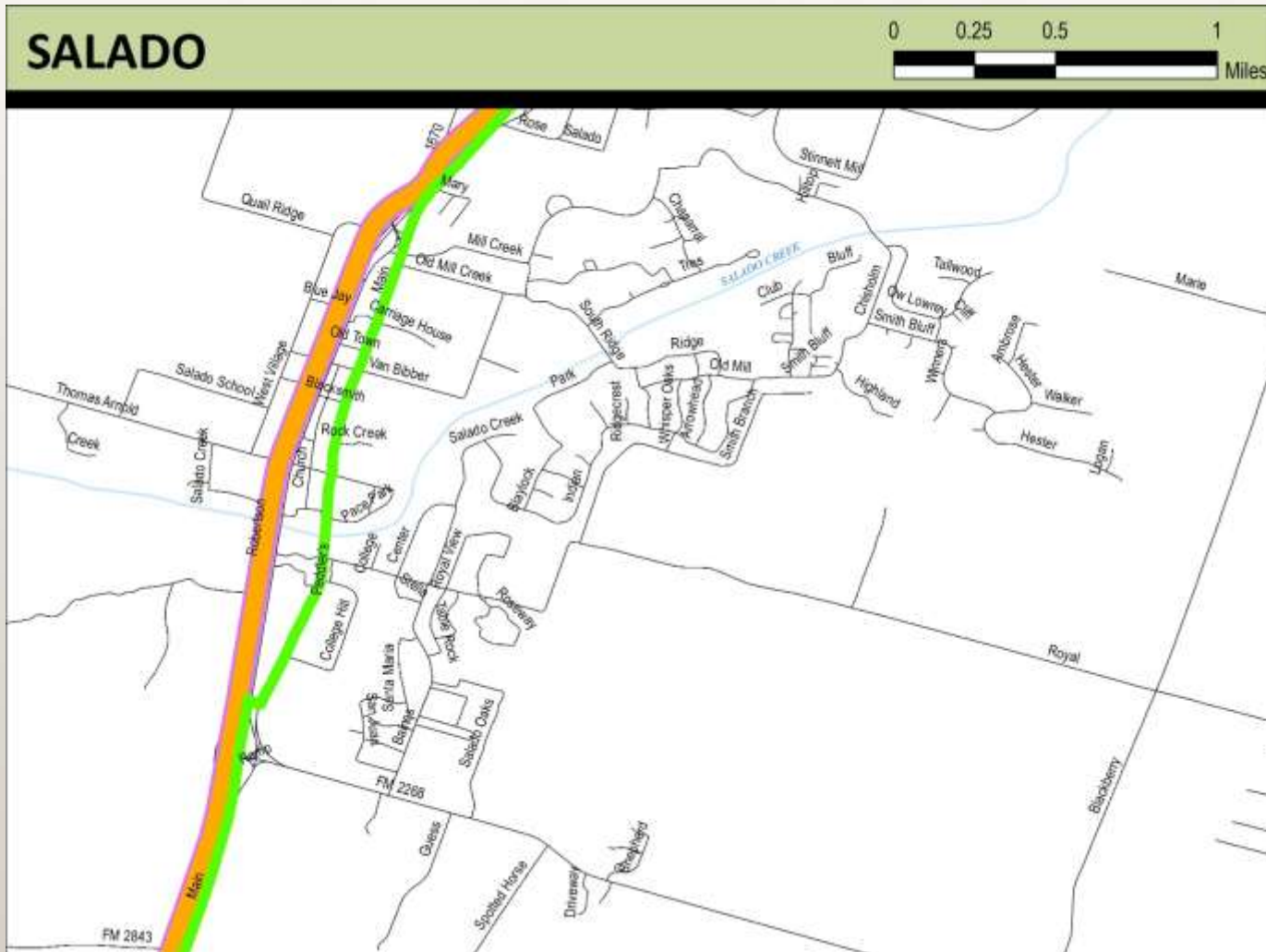


# The Meridian Highway in the Area





# The Meridian Highway in the Area



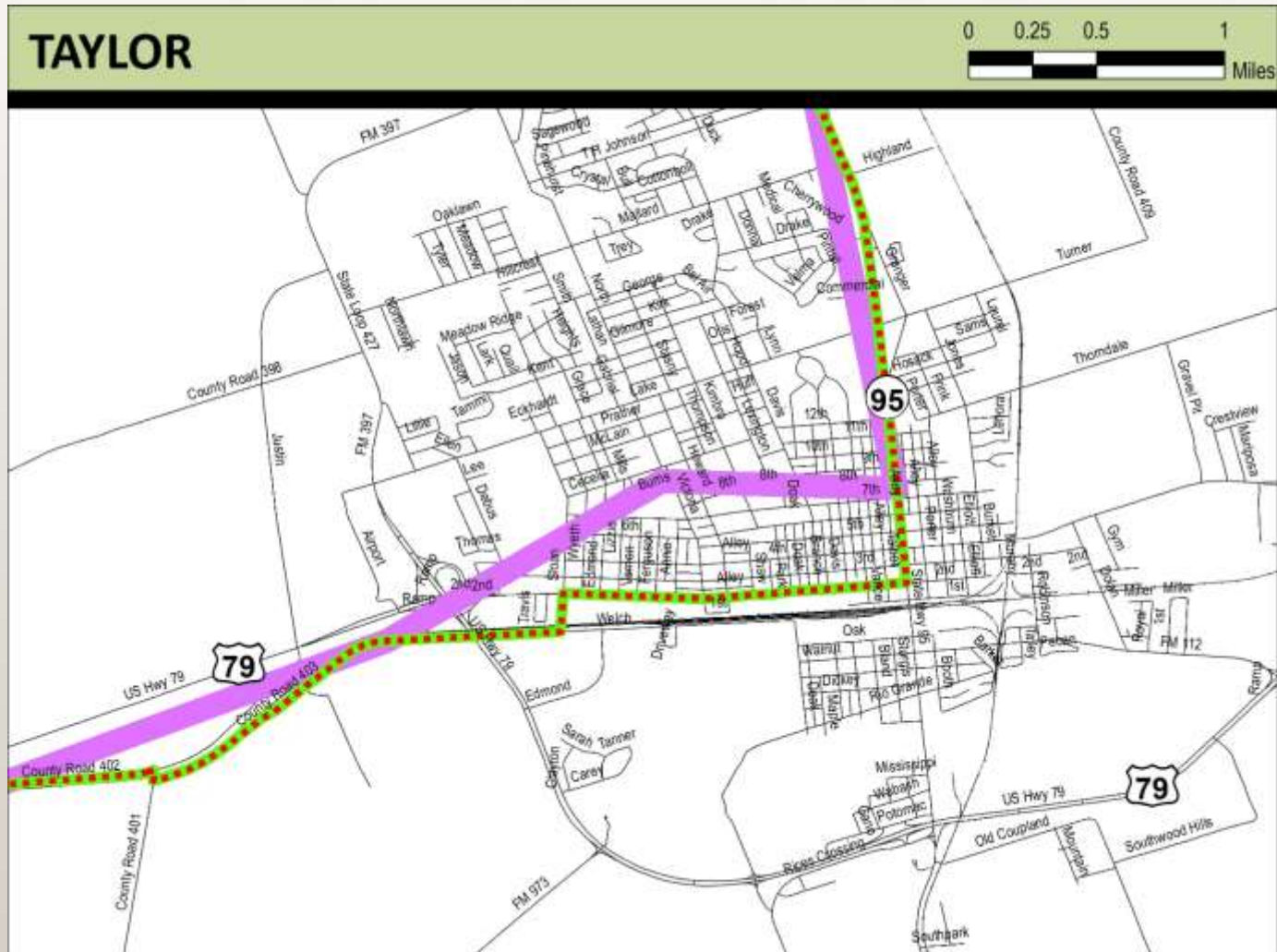








# The Meridian Highway in the Area





# The Meridian Highway in the Area





# What We Are Doing

## Field Documentation

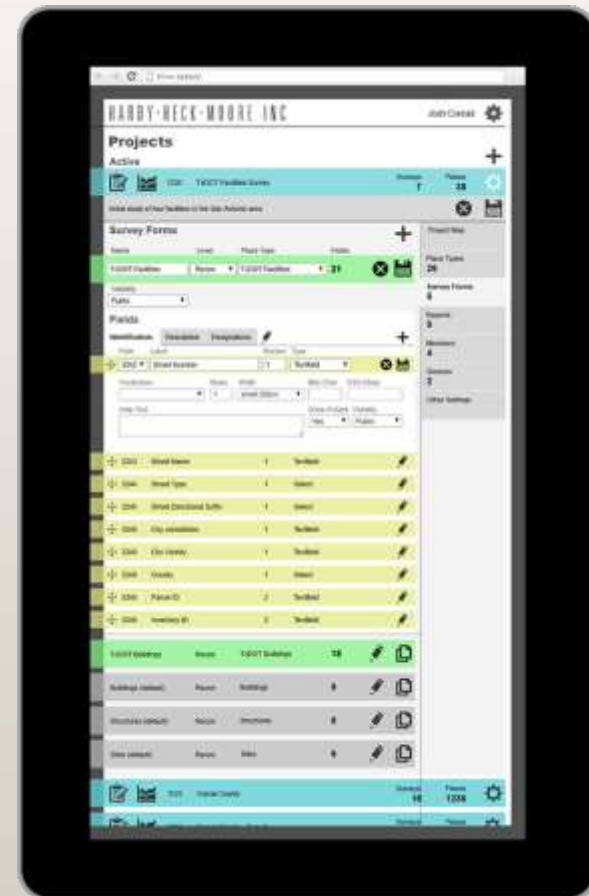






# What We Are Doing

## Field Documentation





# What We Are Doing

## Field Documentation



GPS



GPS









# What We are Doing

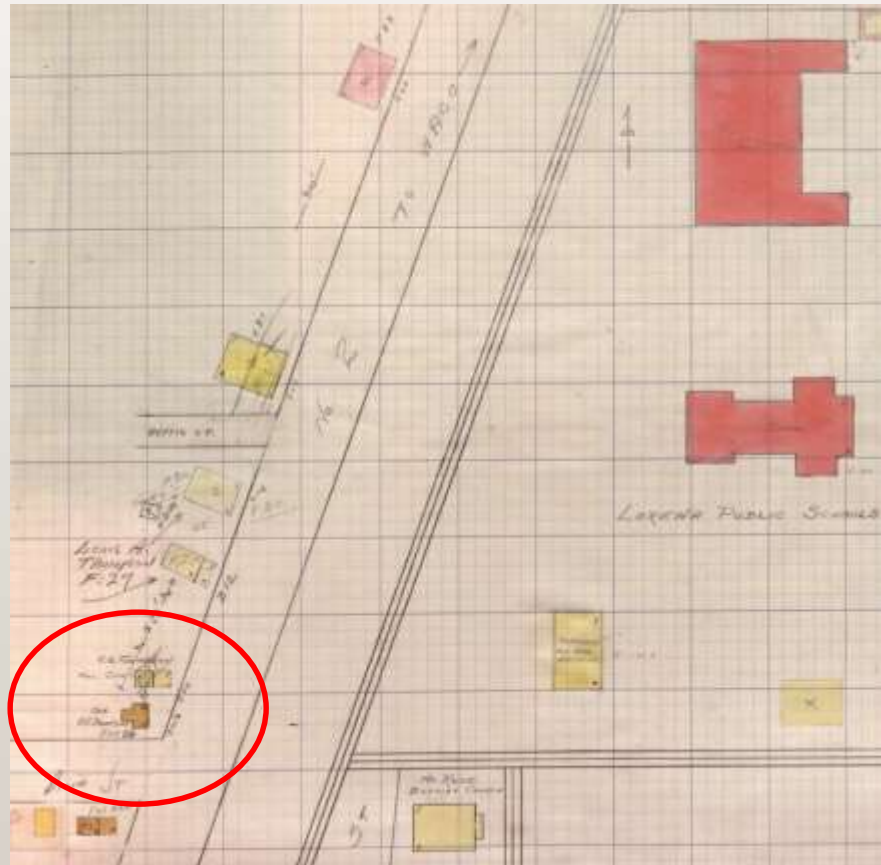
## Research





# What We Are Doing

## Research



Source: VGCHL



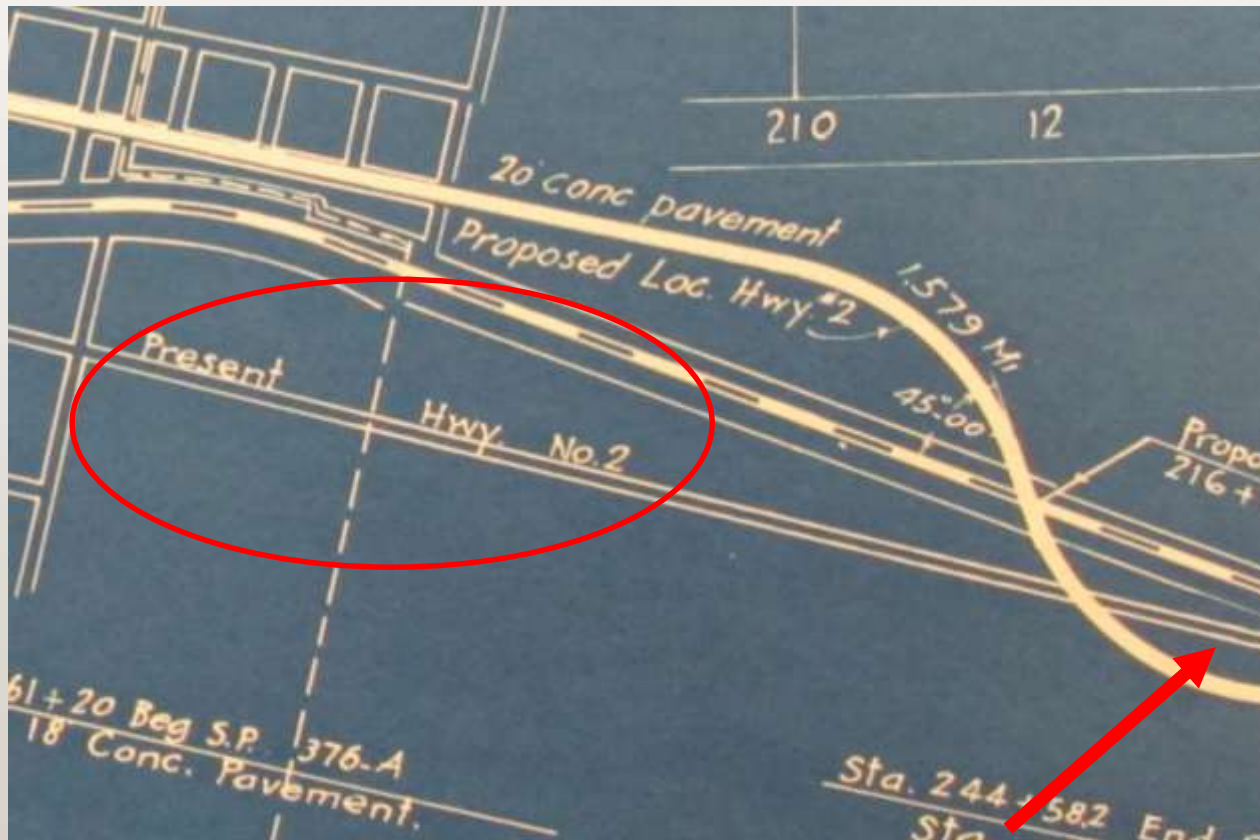
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# What We Are Doing

## Research

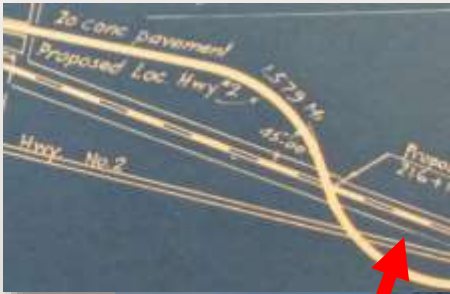


Source: WCC



# What We Are Doing

## Research





# What We Are Doing

## Research



- 1.5 Turn right into Grayson St. at filling station.
- 2.0 Fort Sam Houston grounds, left.
- 2.4 Turn left into New Braunfels avenue.
- 3.2 Turn right.
- 3.4 Turn left.
- 3.6 Camp Travis Reservation.
- 3.8 Turn right.
- 5.2 Ahead.
- 9.6 Cross R. R.
- 16.7 SELMA.
- 20.2 Guadalupe-Comal county line
- 22.9 Left and right across R. R.
- 23.3 Cross R. R.
- 23.5 COMAL.
- 25.0 Cross R. R.
- 27.0 Store on right.
- 28.2 Turn left.
- 28.5 Turn right.
- 30.7 Cross R. R. Depot left.
- 31.0 NEW BRAUNFELS. Plaza.

Source: TSLAC





# What We are Doing

## Research

606 (1924) POLK'S MORRISON & FOURMY		
<b>DUTTON AV—Contd</b>	919 Hearne P W (r)	109 Spark Bros filling sta
1608 Mitchell L R (r)	Neill B A (r)	No 2
1610 Harris R F (r)	Fair W T (r)	115 Home Bakery
1612 Mitchell C P (r)	929 Jaques J B (r)	201 Thomsen Co the mfrs
1616 Beheler W L (r)	937 Graham Thos (r)	Dyo shoe polish and
<b>S Seventeenth</b>	<b>Cherry</b>	dyes
<b>S Eighteenth</b>	1000 Vacant	Hed-Tone Co
1815 Johnson E A (r)	1008 Smith Jos (r)	201-3 Brazos Valley
Dawis W L (r)	1011 Evans R B (o)	Garage
1825 Schramm W F (o)	1016 Dozier Henry (o)	Lambeth C L
<b>S Nineteenth</b>	1017 Wright L S (o)	202-10 Independent Shope
<b>S Twentieth</b>	1021 Plath L H (o)	Brick Co
2000 Worsham J E dairy	1025 Verdell G J (o)	203½ Fechner H M
(r)	1026 Herd J D (o)	205 Vacant
2009 Thompson J L (r)	1028 Chapman W L (r)	207 Urban John blksmith
2011 George A L (r)	1029 Lee A C (o)	209 Vacant
2013 McRay J W (r)	1032 Reagan R E (o)	211 Geyer Bros Co auto
2023 Paulsen Fred (r)	1033 Bebee J E (r)	reprs
<b>S Twenty-first</b>	1035 Byford J T (r)	<b>Mann begins</b>
<b>S Twenty-second</b>	1036 McCormick Wm (o)	300 Khoury A & Sons
2228 Jenkins B E dairy (o)	<b>Forrest</b>	grocers
McCollum Lloyd (r)	1105 Thornton E H (r)	302 East Side Cafe
<b>S Twenty-third</b>	1109 Williams Nancy (* o)	304 Natl Monument Wks
2300 Martin F D Dr (r)	1110 Blakely Bennie (* o)	305 Smith Garage
2301 Crow A J (o)	1113 Brown Geo (* r)	306 Saml The Tire Man
<b>S Twenty-fourth</b>	1114 Williams Geo (* o)	306½ Williams W C (r)
2416 Hyde J O (r)		

Source: TCBU



# What We are Doing

## Research

For the information of house-  
wives who wish accurate informa-  
tion on relative costs in planning  
nutritional and at the same time  
delicious meals, the food adminis-  
tration has issued a table showing  
comparative cost and food value  
of fifty foods.

Each is taken as the standard  
for comparison, and the most per-  
cent and the relative cost per  
hundred calories of the other ma-  
terials is shown. The prices given  
are averages of those in 25 places  
throughout the country on August  
1. The table shows that 12 arti-  
cles are cheaper than bread on the  
basis of calories obtained for the  
money, two are of equal value, and  
higher. Corn meal, notwith-  
standing its present high prices,  
tends to give the most food  
for the money. Broiler  
chickens stand at the foot of the

The experts of the food adminis-  
tration think that an intelligent  
use of this table will help house-  
wives. They point out that it  
is impossible for a family  
to keep in health if it were fed  
solely on the foods in the low-  
est part of the table. Their ad-  
vice is that the housewife continue  
to prepare the usual meal of va-  
riety, and utilize this table as  
an aid in making combinations  
which will save money and at the  
same time be nutritious. For in-  
stance, canned tomatoes, compared  
with bread, are a very expensive  
item. This should not lead to  
the substitution of tomatoes, but

on August 1.

## PLAN HIGHWAY FROM RED RIVER TO BORDER

### First Step Is to Organize Units of the Meridian Road in Texas.

SAN MARCOS, Tex., Sept. 8.—

With the making of a 365-day road  
between the different army posts  
in Texas, the question of military  
transportation is solved, and that's  
why, with the designation of the  
Meridian Road as State Highway  
No. 2, the Texas Highway Depart-  
ment is ready and anxious to aid  
in the campaign just launched to  
give the Meridian Road a hard  
surface from the Red River to the  
Rio Grande and the Gulf. The  
very first consideration is to get  
every unit of the Texas Meridian  
Road Association lined up, and  
started in the good work. It has  
been demonstrated so many times  
in the past that all that is needed  
to put this and like projects of  
state import "over" is to be thor-  
oughly organized.

Government  
describes New  
Treating

IT CAN BE

Gradual Elimination  
Already by a  
Is Not E

Reports that have  
recently been issued by the  
Department of Agriculture  
show the losses from  
the disease during the present  
year or exceed the maximum  
in any previous year.  
If the disease is de-  
stroyed, according to  
the Bureau of Animal  
Industry.

In certain sections  
notably the over-  
flow of the south, and  
most destructive  
cattle and horses  
the cattle tick is  
great drawbacks to  
wide areas which  
excellently adapted.

Can Be  
But, like the  
can be controlled









# What We Are Doing

## Research

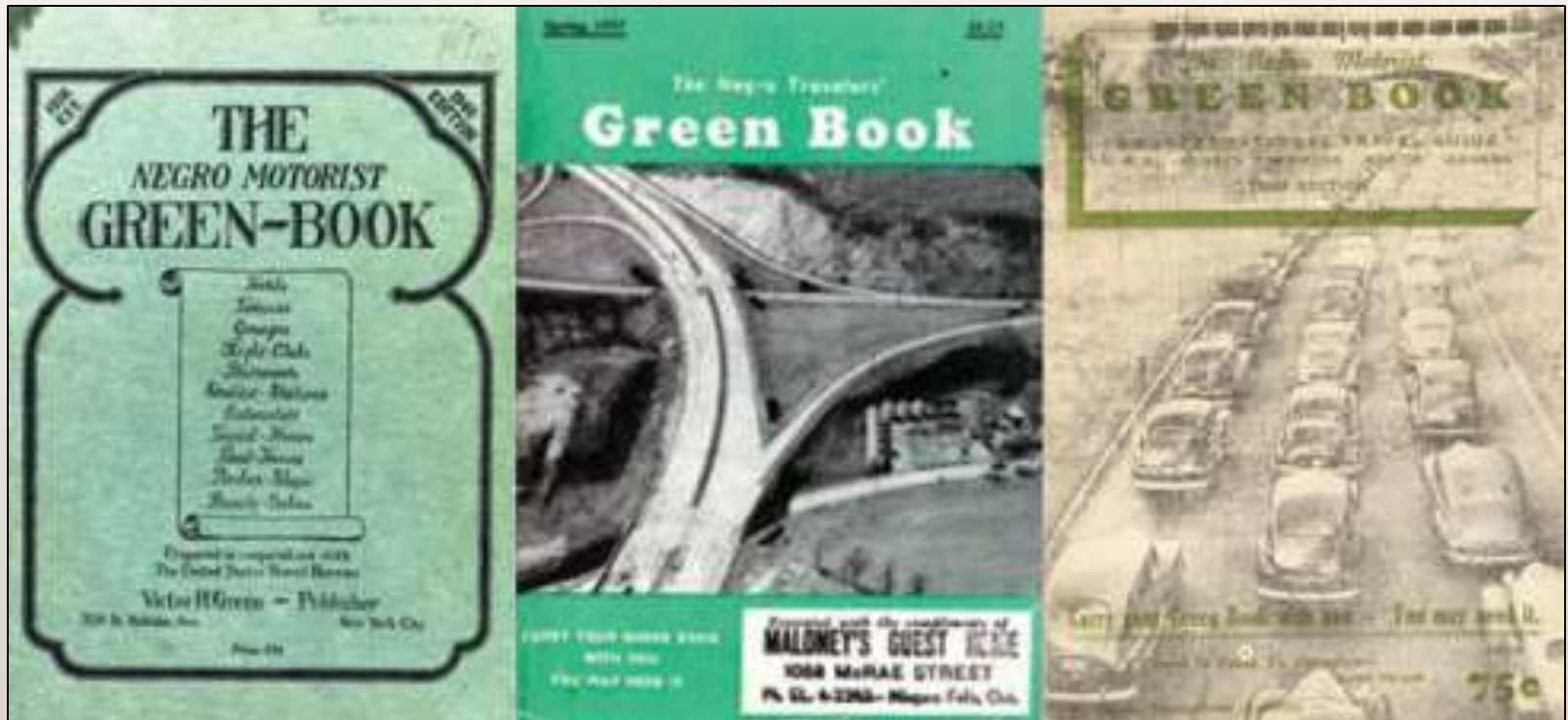
*Co. 246 Hwy. 2 I.G.N. Overpass at Round Rock Sept. 1936.*





# What We Are Doing

## Research

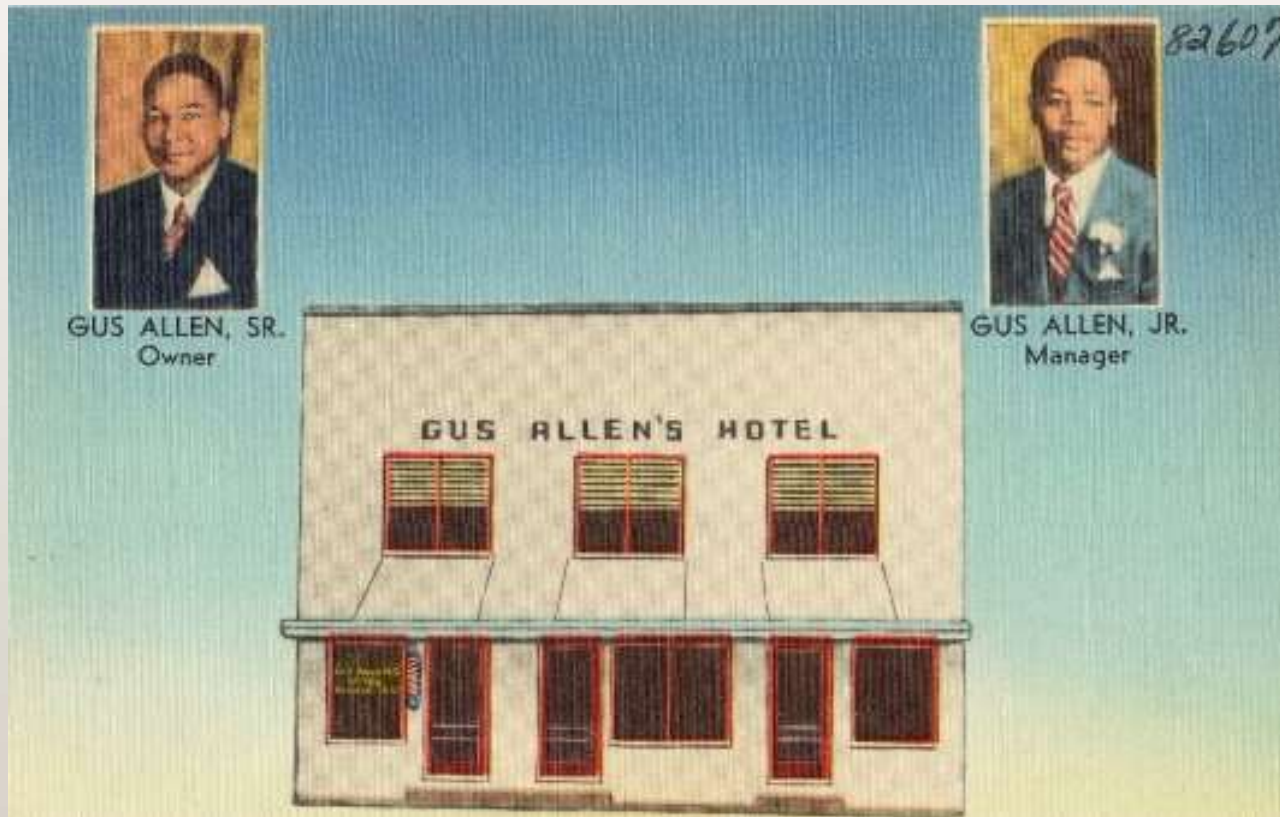


Source: [thesocietypages.org](http://thesocietypages.org)



# What We are Doing

## Research



Source: BoPL





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Mount Vernon, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Decatur, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Albany, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Decatur, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Decatur, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Itasca, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Waco, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Mineral Wells, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Waco, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Source: TxDOT



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Eastland, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Bowie, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Fort Worth, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Waco, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Source: TxDOT



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Source: HCM&A



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Marlin, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Source: PTH



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Source: Mysanantonio.com



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Hillsboro, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Source: TOT



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Source: NARA



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Waco, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Vicinity of Naples, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Lovelace, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Vicinity of Bartlett, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Vicinity of Hillsboro, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Clifton, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Clifton, Texas





# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Ringgold, Texas



# What We are Doing

## Types of Resources



Merkel, Texas



# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Source: PTH





# How You Can Participate

Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



Source: TxDOT



# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Source: TxDOT



# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Vicinity of Hillsboro, Texas





# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Source: TxDOT



# How You Can Participate

Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



Source: TxDOT



# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Source: TxDOT





# How You Can Participate

## Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



Source: BoPL



# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Source: LAPL



# How You Can Participate

Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



Source: BoPL





# How You Can Participate

Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



Source: BoPL



# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Source: B. J. Hicks, Mount Vernon, Texas









# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Source: TCBU





# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Source: TCBU





# How You Can Participate

**Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials**



Source: TCBU



# How You Can Participate

Share Photos, Maps, Postcards and Other Materials



Source: TCBU



# How You Can Participate

## Texas Historical Commission

The screenshot shows the Texas Historical Commission website. At the top is the "Meridian Highway U.S. 81 Throughout" logo. Below it is a navigation bar with links: HOME, ABOUT US, PRESERVE, PROJECT REVIEW, NEWS & EVENTS, GET INVOLVED, LEARN, and EXPLORE TEXAS. The "PRESERVE" link is highlighted. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the text "SEARCH". The main content area is titled "Historic Texas Highways" and features a photograph of a dirt road. To the right of the photograph is a list of links under the heading "In This Section".

Historic Texas Highways

Today, the Lone Star State is crisscrossed with a jumbled tangle of high-speed highways and byways. It was not always this way. In the late 1800s and into early 1900s, the traveler had only dirt, gravel, and occasionally paved roadways from which to choose. As automobiles became more popular, the demand for better and safer roads increased, leading to the Good Roads movement. This in turn led to the improvement and expansion of the roadway network across Texas and across the nation. The development of communities was closely linked to transportation, whether waterways, roadways, or railways. As auto travel increased in the 1920s and '30s, towns connected by roads prospered due to the ability to sell and trade goods, and by providing places for travelers to stop for food, lodging, and vehicle care.

A rich architectural legacy from this early time period still remains along these early roadways, including gas stations, motels and hotels, diners and cafes, auto dealerships and repair shops, parks, signage, bridges, and tourist attractions. To learn and see more about these resources, please explore our various highway

[Bankhead Highway](#)

[Del Rio-Canadian Highway](#)

[East Texas Highway](#)

[Meridian Highway](#)

[North Texas Highway](#)

[Old Spanish Trail](#)

[Route 66](#)

[Sidebar Interests](#)

[Publications for Roadside Architecture](#)





# How You Can Participate

## Texas Historical Commission

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL "www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/historic-texas-highways/meridian-highway". The page features a red header with the Texas Historical Commission logo and tagline "real places telling real stories". Below the header is a navigation bar with links: HOME, ABOUT US, PRESERVE, PROJECT REVIEW, NEWS &amp; EVENTS, GET INVOLVED, LEARN, and EXPLORE TEXAS. The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: Home &gt; Preserve &gt; Projects and Programs &gt; Historic Texas Highways &gt; Meridian Highway. The title "Meridian Highway" is prominently displayed. To the left of the text is a map of Texas showing the route of the Meridian Highway. The text describes the highway's history, its path across Texas, and the commission's current study to document its history. On the right side, there is a "Share This" button and a section titled "In This Section" with a list of links: Bankhead Highway, Del Rio-Canadian Highway, East Texas Highway, Meridian Highway (with sub-links for Meridian Highway History, Meridian Highway FAQs, and THC Release Form), North Texas Highway, Old Spanish Trail, Route 66, and Sidebar Interests.



# How You Can Participate

## Texas Historical Commission

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/historic-texas-highways/meridian-highway/meridian-highway-faqs](http://www.thc.state.tx.us/preserve/projects-and-programs/historic-texas-highways/meridian-highway/meridian-highway-faqs). The page features a red header with the Texas Historical Commission logo and a navigation menu. The main content area is titled "Meridian Highway FAQs" and includes sections for "General Inquiries" and "Public Outreach". A sidebar on the right lists links to various highway projects.

**Meridian Highway FAQs**

**General Inquiries**

- [What is the Meridian Highway project?](#)
- [Who is funding the Meridian Highway Project?](#)
- [Where does the Meridian Highway run across Texas?](#)
- [When was the Meridian Highway built?](#)
- [What types of historic resources are associated with the Meridian Highway?](#)
- [Who is doing the survey work?](#)
- [When will the field survey work be conducted?](#)
- [When will the Meridian Highway project be completed?](#)

**Public Outreach**

- [When and where will the public outreach meetings be held?](#)
- [What is the purpose of the public outreach meetings?](#)
- [How can I get ongoing Meridian Highway project information?](#)

**In This Section**

- [Bankhead Highway](#)
- [Del Rio-Canadian Highway](#)
- [East Texas Highway](#)
- [Meridian Highway](#)
  - [Meridian Highway History](#)
  - [Meridian Highway FAQs](#)
  - [THC Release Form](#)
- [North Texas Highway](#)
- [Old Spanish Trail](#)
- [Route 66](#)
- [Sidebar Interests](#)



# How You Can Participate

## Texas Historical Commission

Explore the Bankhead Highway

www.thc.state.tx.us/historic-highways/bankhead-highway/explore-bankhead-highway

Meridian Highway Facebook

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
real places telling real stories

HOME ABOUT US PRESERVE PROJECT REVIEW NEWS & EVENTS GET INVOLVED LEARN EXPLORE TEXAS

Home > Historic Highways > Bankhead Highway > Explore the Bankhead Highway

### Explore the Bankhead Highway

Sort according to: Direction City County Decade

Show me places in a specific:

Fast to West

— All Cities —

— All Counties —

— All Decades —

Show The

#### In This Section

- [Bankhead Highway](#)
  - [Explore the Bankhead Highway](#)
  - [Bankhead Highway History](#)
  - [Bankhead Highway Maps](#)
  - [Bankhead Highway FAQs](#)
  - [Bankhead Highway Survey](#)
  - [Bankhead Highway Project Information](#)
  - [Bankhead Highway News & Links](#)
- [Del Rio-Canadian Highway](#)





# How You Can Participate

## Texas Historical Commission

Sort according to:  
Direction  
East to West

Show me places in a specific:  
City  
All Cities

County  
All Counties

Decade  
All Decades

Auto Parts Store, 102 7th St. Teasdale

Gas Station, 412 W 3rd St. Teasdale

Gas Station, 404 W 7th St. Teasdale

Bridge-Class Culvert, W 7th St. Teasdale

Grade Separation (Overwater Pass), W 7th St. Teasdale

Motel/Tourist Court, 3502 W 7th St. Teasdale

Roadside Segment, Pace St. Redwater

Bridge, CR 1226, Redwater

Culvert, Pace St. Redwater

Bridge-Class Culvert, Pace St. Redwater

Culvert, Pace St. Redwater

Centennial Marker, US 87, Redwater

Gas Station, 432 Broadway Ave. Maud

Gas Station, 411 Broadway Ave. Maud

Bridge, CR 2686, Doyakawville

Roadside Segment, CR 2686, Doyakawville

Roadside Park/Turnoff, US 87, Somers

Bridge, US 87, Hughes

Bridge, US 87, Hughes

Bridge, US 87, Hughes

### Information

- [Bankhead Highway Times & Links](#)
- [Del Rio-Canadian Highway](#)
- [East Texas Highway](#)
- [Meridian Highway](#)
- [North Texas Highway](#)
- [Old Spanish Trail](#)
- [Route 66](#)
- [Sidebar Interests](#)
- [Publications for Roadside Architecture](#)

### Other Ways to Explore the Bankhead Highway

To see all of the historical sites surveyed along the Bankhead, not just the National Register Listed, National Register Eligible, and Contributing to a District sites, click on the link below.

[Download a Google Earth file and take a virtual trip down the Bankhead Highway.](#) (Open with free Google Earth download)

### The Medallion Articles

- [On the Road to Progress](#)
- [Historical Highway](#)

### From the THC Blog

- [Hitting the Roads](#)
- [Heavy Metal](#)



# How You Can Participate

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
*real places telling real stories*

## QUESTIONNAIRE: HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE MERIDIAN HIGHWAY

Project contact: Leslie Woffenden, 512.463.3386, [leslie.woffenden@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:leslie.woffenden@thc.state.tx.us)

### Participant Contact Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Activities along the Meridian Highway

Did you, your family, or friends travel on the Meridian Highway? If so, when, how often and for what reason?

Did new businesses open when the highway was built? If so, what kind of businesses were they and when were they in use?

Did the highway pass through the downtown area? If so, did any events take place on the downtown section of the highway, and what were they...fairs, parades, community celebrations?

What impact did paving the highway have on local business and movement from town to town? Did tourism increase?

What happened to businesses in your community when the interstate was built?



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P.O. BOX 12276 • AUSTIN, TEXAS • 78711-0276 • P 512.463.6100 • F 512.475.4872 • TDD 1.800.735.2989 • [www.thc.state.tx.us](http://www.thc.state.tx.us)

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
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### Buildings and Structures along the Meridian Highway

Do you remember any buildings or places that highway travelers used, such as tourist camps, tourist courts, motels, gas stations, repair garages? If so, what and where were they, and when were they used? Do they still exist?

Do you remember any old bridges, parks or rest areas built along or near the highway? If so, where were they and do they still exist? When were they built and when did people stop using them?

Are there any old sections of road that are no longer used? If so, where are they?

### Historical Information

Do you have any photographs, postcards or written materials showing places on or near the Bankhead? Are you willing to have them scanned or photographed for use in this project?

Do you know anyone else who might have materials to share? If so, please provide contact information.

☐ I have photos, post cards or other materials to share with the project but did not bring them to this meeting. The survey crew will contact you to arrange an opportunity for you to share your materials. Please complete the section at the top of the Questionnaire so you can be contacted.

### Project Feedback

Please record any comments you have on this meeting, or the project.

Thank you for your participation.



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# How You Can Participate

## TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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### RELEASE AND WAIVER

In consideration of the Texas Historical Commission (Commission) copying, archiving and possibly publishing certain archival material listed below, \_\_\_\_\_, hereinafter described as Owner, hereby provides this **RELEASE AND WAIVER** to the Commission.

Owner freely and without promise of payment offers the archival material to the Commission for its use in documenting the history of Texas. Owner represents to the Commission that Owner has all rights of publication and title to the archival material and that the archival material is not subject to a claim of copyright protection by a third party, known or unknown.

**In full consideration of the above intended use of the archival material and in full consideration of the fact that I am willingly and voluntarily offering the archival material to the Commission, and with my full understanding of all of the above, I hereby waive, release, remise and discharge the Commission and its agents, officers, principals and employees of any and all liability, claims, demands, actions or rights of action, or damages of any kind related to, arising from, or in any way connected with, my offer of the archival material, including those allegedly attributed to the negligent acts or omissions of the above mentioned parties.**

This agreement shall be binding upon me, my successors, representatives, heirs, executors, assigns, or transferees. If any portion of this agreement is held invalid, I agree that the remainder of the agreement shall remain in full legal force and effect.

**I understand that the offer of the archival material does not obligate the Commission to copy, archive or publish the archival material. Any further use of the archival material is strictly at the discretion of the Commission.**

Owner understands that without the provision of this RELEASE AND WAIVER, Owners would not consider its option to copy, archive or publish the archival material.

Signed and dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

AGREED:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF ARCHIVAL MATERIAL OFFERED:



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## **For More Information**

### **Texas Historical Commission**

- Leslie Wolfenden, Project Manager
  - Email: [Leslie.Wolfenden@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:Leslie.Wolfenden@thc.state.tx.us)
  - Phone: 512-463-3386

### **Hardy·Heck·Moore, Inc.**

- David Moore, Historian
  - Email: [dmoore@hhminc.com](mailto:dmoore@hhminc.com)
  - Phone: 512-478-8014 x 109



## Sources

- Boston Public Library
- Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin
- Federal Highway Administration
- Google Books
- Harvey County Museum & Archives
- John Asa Rountree Manuscripts, Birmingham Public Library
- Kansas Historical Society
- Lena Armstrong Public Library, Belton



## Sources

- Library of Congress
- Lincoln Highway National Museum & Archives
- National Archives and Records Administration
- Perry-Castañeda Library, University of Texas at Austin
- Pikes Peak Library District
- Texas Collection, Baylor University
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Historical Commission





## Sources

- Texas State Library and Archive Commission
- The Henry Ford
- The Portal to Texas History
- The Witliff Collection at Texas State University
- Traces of Texas
- University of Nebraska at Omaha
- Virginia Garret Cartographic History Library, University of Texas Arlington
- Wise County Clerk, Wise County Courthouse



**Questions?**

**....and Safe Travels!**



Source: TCBU